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PUBLIC FINANCE ASPECTS OF THE MILK RIVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT (LA-MT-2) PHILLIPS COUNTY, MONTANA

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By

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Washington, D.C.
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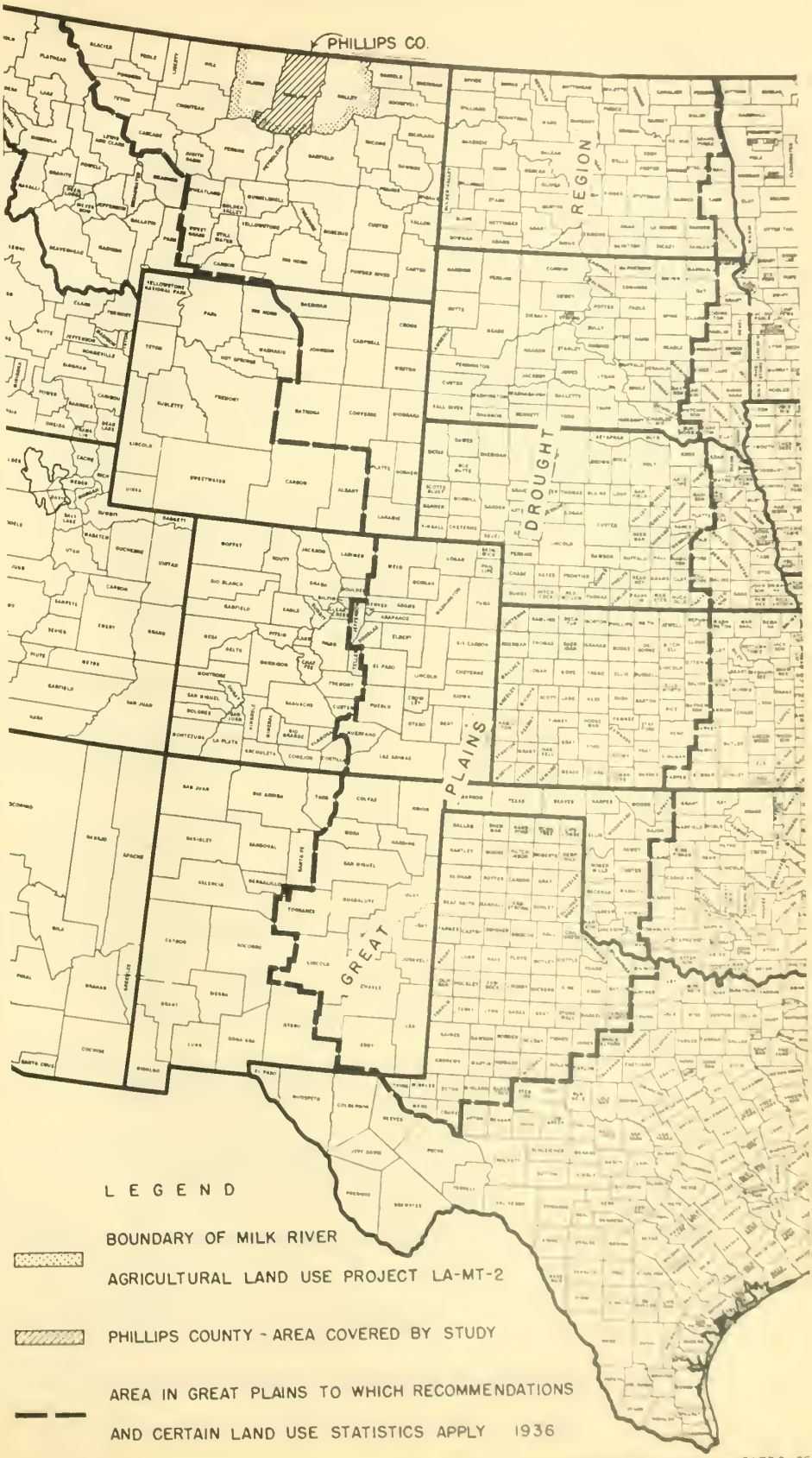
PHILLIPS COUNTY, MONTANA

MILK RIVER R.A.PROJECT



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PUBLIC FINANCE ASPECTS OF THE MILK RIVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT (LA-MT-3)
Phillips County, Montana

(A study of the relationship of the project to, and its effects upon local governmental finance and organization, following the outline set forth in Field Instruction LU-38)

INTRODUCTION

This report is presented primarily as an analysis of the public finance problems bearing upon or growing out of the Federal land acquisition and resettlement program in Phillips County. Particular attention has been given to the rural school districts since they, by the nature of local governmental organization in the area and the nature of the land purchase program, are most seriously affected by the program, and present at once the most pressing problems and the greatest opportunity for constructive change. The inherent local benefits of the Federal program, from a public finance standpoint, cannot be realized without comprehensive reorganization of the rural school districts, preferably to the extent of establishment of the county-unit system. To a considerable extent the need for school district reorganization has long existed in the county. It both antedates and overshadows the Federal program. The latter program augments but does not create the problem. This thesis is borne out by the present analysis.

This report is being reproduced and distributed at this time and in its present form as a type study following generally

Field Instruction LU-38, for the use of the field staff members of the Resettlement Administration engaged in parallel studies of other land acquisition projects. There has been a widespread demand from the field for such a guide to procedure in summarizing data gathered in response to Field Instruction LU-38.

A background study (18-b) entitled, "General Framework of Law and Procedure within which Local Governments Operate in Montana", has been prepared to accompany this report.

I. GENERAL NATURE OF THE AREA:
The Problems, and Proposed Lines of Action

The Milk River - northern Montana Project covers the greater parts of Valley, Phillips, and Blaine Counties, in northern Montana. The irrigable land and better grade dry-farming lands have for the most part been excluded from the purchase program. Only strictly grazing lands and low-grade farming lands are being purchased. These are lands which, because of a combination of soil, topographic, and climatic conditions, are generally unsuited to crop production.

The history of settlement of the area is typical of the semi-arid Great Plains. Prior to 1910 there was comparatively little settlement, the area being largely open range used by large livestock outfits. During the Homestead era, which reached its peak in northern Montana concurrently with the World War, settlers infiltrated throughout the area, locating on half-section homesteads which were broken and brought into wheat production in response to war-time demand. Both production and price were high for a few favorable seasons, but neither was destined to last. The collapse of wheat prices after the war was accompanied by the beginning of a long period of intermittent drought years not yet terminated. Inconclusive studies indicate that prolonged droughts have been a recurrent circumstance and represent normal expectancy for the future for Phillips County and its neighbors throughout the Northern Great Plains Area. 1/ It is now apparent that the great mass of agricultural settlement in this area occurred under what were perhaps the most favorable conditions for agriculture within at least a century.

Unfortunately, neither the favorable economic nor climatic conditions lasted. A large share of the dry-land farmers soon exhausted their resources, and abandoned their farms to seek opportunity in the irrigated Milk River Valley or elsewhere outside of the area. Population and farm tenure have been highly unstable in this area from the very beginning of its settlement.

Prior to the general economic and industrial depression, many of the dry-farmers who failed found it possible to establish themselves elsewhere, in other lines of employment. During more recent years, however, there has been less attraction away from the area. These years have seen the growth of a system of indirect

1/ See news release of U. S. Department of Agriculture, "Droughts in the United States" by J. B. Kincer, U. S. Weather Bureau. Similar conclusions were indicated in an unpublished study of tree-ring growth, by M. A. Bell, Agronomist, Northern Montana Experiment Station, Havre, Montana.

farm relief comprised of annual seed loans, feed loans, and other more direct relief measures, the cost of which over a period of years has run into millions, and has constituted a basic source of income upon which farming in the area came in a measure to depend for its continued existence. Emergency crop and feed loans in the three years 1933, 1934, and 1935 amounted to $831,900 in the three counties, and drought relief loans in 1934-1935 were $222,900. Earlier loans, running back to 1918, are still largely unpaid. Total land bank and commissioner loans outstanding on farm real estate in the three counties on December 31, 1935 exceeded $3,700,000.

A general indication of the extent of unrest and migration is provided by the annual school census. While it does not correspond exactly with total population figures, it does show the direction of population trends, and any considerable fluctuations in population of school census age, particularly downward, are of significance as indications of general population trends. Elsewhere in this report space is given to a discussion of school census trends in Phillips County. Suffice it to say here that in some of the poorer sections of the county, for farming purposes, farm population has fallen off as much as 75 percent since 1920, and half that much since 1930 in spite of the well-known "back-to-the-land" movement. (See Tables XIX and XX in Appendix B, and discussion on page 26). Many of these areas gained in population after the relatively favorable crop years 1927 and 1928, but the downward tendency has for the most part been resumed.

The impermanence of farm tenure and instability of rural population have had rather far-reaching effects upon the organization and financing of local units of government, particularly of school districts, and in the provision of school facilities. During the settlement period from 1915 to 1920, the number of school districts was more than doubled by division of old districts. At the present time, following prolonged recession of population, several consolidations have been effected, while others badly needed are prevented by local jealousy or misunderstanding. In 1936 half as many school houses stood idle as were in use, while the enrollment in well over half of those in use was less than ten pupils per school.

From a land use planning standpoint, the present situation in the area under discussion seems to be primarily one in which dry-land farmers, misled by the then current land policy in the place and nature of their settlement, have created a land use and ownership situation profitable to neither them nor the ranchmen.

They have become hopelessly enmeshed in a highly speculative venture which offers only the most hazardous promise of return or release of their investment, without which they cannot transfer their efforts and ambitions to more favorable scenes.

The basic problem is one of land use adjustment. Specifically, what is required is to return to extensive grazing such land as is by nature suited only to that use, and to establish land use control of sufficient contiguous areas to insure conservative use. These objectives could obviously be accomplished only by the discontinuance of many present unsuccessful farms, and the blocking up by public acquisition, of considerable land acreage which had come to be distributed in a great diversity of ownership, largely non-resident. The public finance problems are closely related to this basic problem, being chiefly those inherent in scattered rural population and relatively poor productive (and taxable) resources, which factors tend to create disparity between public costs and revenues. Problems of this nature raise the question to what extent isolated settlement should be permitted from the standpoint of social costs. This approach will to a considerable extent harmonize with the land use planning viewpoint. At some point, however, the two approaches may run counter to each other. In the Phillips county program the two problems coincide as long as reduction of scattered settlement is to the interest of sound land use as well as public finance adjustment. However, when the point in reduction is reached at which the remaining resident families will be required to utilize fully the land resources, at that point community planning should probably yield to land utilization considerations. These considerations are introduced to indicate the need for recognizing the strong interrelationships existing between problems in land use and the public finance and community problems which accompany various types of land use and occupancy.

Soon after the inauguration of the Federal land utilization program, a plan for a project of land conservation and development in Valley, Phillips, and Blaine counties was submitted for approval. As originally submitted, the project plan included the entire area of the three counties, totalling over 9½ million acres, of which slightly more than 2 million were to be purchased. Subsequent revisions have excluded better land areas, reducing the project area to 6,643,837 acres, of which 901,335 acres are being purchased. Lands already accepted are scattered widely throughout the project area. It is estimated that from 1,200 to 1,400 farm families reside within the revised project area. Of these, some 800 have optioned their lands, perhaps 400 more in similar circumstances are awaiting more definite resettlement plans, while nearly 300 are in a position to become self-sustaining in place if they are enabled

to control adjacent range. Information from the family selection unit, as of March 15, 1936, indicates that 672 families actually reside on land subject to purchase, of whom 581 will require aid in resettlement.

Development plans provide for the removal of dry-land farm families to irrigable areas, and reversion of their present farms to grazing use. Grazing associations are being organized, the membership made up of the stockmen who will remain in the area. The area is subdivided into grazing districts under the provisions of the Montana Grazing Law and the Taylor Grazing Act. Stock-water facilities are being developed, fences and other necessary improvements constructed, and the range improved. Grazing rights are to be allotted; first, to members having commensurate and dependent property 2/ and prior use rights; second, to members having commensurate property but no prior use rights. In the unlikely event of any remaining and unallocated grazing, rights would be allotted to non-members having commensurate property. Any person or organization owning or leasing forage land within or near the district is entitled to membership. Grazing permits can be issued only to Montana residents actually engaged in the production of livestock. The program of land utilization is designed to bring about a corrective change in land use, by which lands suited only to grazing will be diverted to and maintained in that use, while more intensive development will be confined to the irrigable and better class dry-farming lands. In this respect, the land utilization project brings rational planning to bear upon a process which has been in haphazard operation for two decades, with reversals in periods of fair crop yields. The organization of grazing districts will tend to stabilize the use of grazing land, since the periodic ebb and flow of farmers to and from this land will be virtually eliminated.

The resettlement phase of the program is being conducted under three separate projects, all within the area. These consist of the Malta Subsistence Homesteads Project (RR-MT-1) south of Milk River near Wagner, in Phillips County; the Beaver Creek project (RR-MT-22)3/ about 20 miles south of Malta, in Phillips County; and the Milk River Infiltration project (RR-MT-21), consisting of scattered tracts along the irrigated valley throughout the three counties. It is estimated that adequate resettlement

2/ Commensurate property is defined as land owned (or leased) capable of producing winter feed for the livestock grazed. Dependent property is defined as land whose full utilization requires supplementation by grazing rights upon the range in question.

3/ This project was subsequently suspended.

opportunities can be developed to accommodate all dry-farm families who will be displaced and in need of resettlement aid.

Scope of the Report

The land-use project (LA-MT-2) covers about half of Blaine County and the greater parts of Phillips and Valley Counties. In view of the great size of this project and the volume of statistical material to be handled, it was considered advisable to conduct separate public finance studies for each of the three counties involved. Accordingly, the present and initial study is confined to Phillips County, insofar as the analysis of statistical data is concerned. The analysis of background of law and procedure governing the organization and functioning of local government will serve, with minor revisions, for subsequent studies of Blaine and Valley Counties, and other Montana counties affected by Federal land purchase projects.

I. FISCAL CONDITIONS IN PHILLIPS COUNTY PRIOR TO THE INAUGURATION OF THE PROGRAM

A. The Tax Base

The tax base of Phillips County is composed primarily of agricultural property. Real estate represents the largest single class of property in the tax base. 1/ Figures showing taxable valuation by classes of property from 1925 to 1934 are shown in Appendix A, Table I. 2/ These data are summarized in Table 1, below.

Table 1. Summary of changes in taxable valuation of various classes of property in Phillips County, a/ 1925 to 1934.

Year of Assessment	Real Estate	Personalty	Railroad	Other Utilities and Mines	Total
1925	$5,193,215	$189,236	$1,194,760	$ 17,982	$6,595,243
1934	2,624,993	690,191	1,329,276	158,777	4,803,237
Composition by Types: 1925	78.7	2.9	18.1	0.3	100
Composition by Types: 1934	54.7	14.4	27.7	3.2	100
Index 1934/1925	50.5	364.6	111.3	883.0	72.8

a/ For detail, see Appendix A, Table I.

In the 1934 assessment real estate made up 54.7 percent of the tax base, railroad property 27.7 percent, personalty 14.4 percent, and other utilities and mines 3.2 percent. These figures represent considerable changes from the assessment for 1925. At that time real estate made up 78.7 percent of the tax base, personalty 2.9 percent, railroads, 18.1 percent, and other utilities and mines, 0.3 percent. While real estate valuation fell off by about half in the 10 years, the total value of personal property more than tripled, railroad

1/ See discussion of Classified property tax, Publication 18-b.
2/ Tables referred to by Arabic numerals are in the text, and Roman numeral tables in Appendix B.

property increased 11 percent, and the value of other utilities and mines increased to over 8 times what it was in 1925. Because of the preponderance of real estate in the tax base, the entire tax base of the county fell off during the 10 years over one-fourth from its 1925 value.

While the great decline in taxable value of real estate has been primarily due to actual reductions in the rate of real estate assessment, considerable land has been lost from the tax base through delinquency and the county taking tax titles. On December 31, 1935, 295,017 acres were held under tax title by Phillips County.

Changes in the tax base of the county have had varying effects upon the individual school districts which together make up the county, largely due to the concentration of railroad and other utility property in relatively few districts. It will be noted from Table II that all utility property in the county is concentrated in 17 of the 44 districts. These are the districts which are intersected by the main line and the Saco-Northwest branch of the Great Northern Railroad. The importance of utility property in the tax bases of the districts containing such property, and a comparison of the relative declines in tax base since 1930 between the districts which have utility property and those which have not, is shown in Appendix Table III and briefly summarized here in Table 2.

Table 2. Relative declines in tax bases of districts having and not having utility property,a/ from 1930 to 1935.

District groups	Tax value, utilities - 1935	Percent of total	Total tax value 1935	Total tax value 1930	Ratio: 1935 tax value to 1930
With utilities - (17 dists.)	$1,435,266	46.0	$3,230,695	$4,106,059	78.7
Without utilities (27 dists.)	-	0	1,793,178	2,670,034	67.1

a/ For detail see Table III, Appendix B.

It will be observed that utility property, which is comprised chiefly of railroad property, constitutes from 12 to 80 percent, and averages

46 percent of all taxable property in the 17 districts having such property. In the other 27 districts the tax base is made up entirely of real estate and personalty. Total taxable valuation of the 17 districts having utilities was greater both in 1930 and in 1935 than that of the other 27. The decline in taxable valuations of the 17 districts with utilities was less extreme than that of the districts without utilities. In the former, total taxable valuation in 1935 was 78.7 percent of that of 1930, while in the latter, the 1935 taxable valuation was only 67.1 percent of the 1930 figure. This divergence follows logically the findings shown in Appendix Table I, to the effect that land valuation has been falling off while utility valuation has been increasing, during the past ten years.

It may be noted at this point that of the 301,551 acres of taxable land being purchased for conservation purposes in the county, only 80,171 acres, or about 27 percent, are located in the districts with utilities, and 221,380 acres, or 73 percent, in the districts depending almost entirely upon real estate for tax revenues. (See Appendix Table XXI).

B. Assessment Ratio

The effective rate of taxation is a composite of two factors, namely, the nominal or millage rate, and the ratio of valuation, placed upon the property for taxation purposes, to true value. In Montana all property is required to be assessed at "full cash value", and different classes of property are then taxed on different portions of the value so determined. Agricultural real estate is supposed to be taxed on 30 percent of its assessed "full" value. (See "Classified property tax", Publication 18-b.)

In order to determine the ratio of current taxable values to actual values of real estate, an analysis was made covering 764 tracts of land on which options have been accepted. The taxable value of the land as recorded in the 1935 tax rolls was compared with the actual value as appraised for Federal purchase. While the ratio of taxable valuation to appraised value ranged from 0.1 to 1.2 for the 764 tracts studied, the greatest frequencies occurred at 0.4 to 0.6. The weighted average ratio of taxable to appraised value on all tracts was 0.485. It will be remembered that real estate is taxed upon 30 percent of its assessed value, which according to the law should represent true value. The results of this study would, therefore, indicate that real estate assessments in Phillips County in 1935 ranged from 33 to 100 percent higher, and averaged approximately 60 percent higher, than the land's appraised

worth. The last general downward adjustment in real estate assessment in the county was made in 1931. Present discrepancy between assessed and true value, as shown by the analysis presented above, would seem to justify a general scaling down of valuation on real estate from present levels.

Brief examination of the tax records of lands purchased indicates that first grade 3/ grazing land is assessed at $3.75 to $5.00 an acre, second and third grade grazing at $2 to $3 an acre, and the lower grades of farming crop land at $6 to $10 an acre. The appraised values of these lands for Federal purchase usually run from 50 to 75 percent of these figures.

While the ratio of taxable to appraised value is generally well concentrated about the average in the sample studied, some minor differences may be noted when the records are classified on various bases, as in Appendix Table IV. These data are here summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. Summary of ratio of taxable valuation to appraised value of 764 tracts of land when classified on three bases. a/

Bases of classification	Number of tracts	Average ratio: tax value to appraised value
All tracts	764	48.5 percent
A. Residence		
in county	318	44.3 "
outside county	79	49.1 "
outside State	367	52.1 "
B. Type of land		
farming	449	49.4 "
grazing	315	47.3 "
C. Size of tract		
over 481 acres	120	40.8 "
321 - 480 "	57	44.7 "
161 - 320 "	521	50.2 "
under 160 "	66	52.4 "

a/ For detail, see Table IV, Appendix B.

3/ Reference is to the grades established by Montana State College in reconnaissance survey of this and other Montana counties.

When classified according to residence of owner, it is apparent that property of owners residing in the county is assessed somewhat lower, as a rule, than that of owners residing in the State but outside the county, and that the latter, in turn, tend to be assessed at figures lower than land of owners residing outside the State. The averages presented in Table 3 clearly show this to be true.

Farming land shows a slightly greater tendency to be over-assessed than grazing land, as shown by the distribution of tracts in the three ratio classes in Classification B of Table IV, and the averages in Table 3.

A very pronounced tendency toward higher assessment on the smaller tracts is shown when the tracts are grouped according to size, as in Classification C, Appendix Table IV. Consistently throughout the classification, it appears that the smaller the tract, the higher the assessment in proportion to true value. The averages within groups, as shown in Table 3 above, range from 40.8 percent of true value on tracts of 480 acres or more, to 52.4 percent on tracts of 160 acres or less.

C. Millage Rates

The consolidated property tax rate in Phillips County (towns and cities excluded) has ranged from 70 to 88 mills on the tax base, as shown in Table 4, during the past five years. These totals represent county-wide averages, since the school district tax rates shown in the table are averages for the county rather than the actual rates. Actual school district rates vary widely between districts, as shown in Appendix Table V.

Table 4. Total tax rates in Phillips County, 1930 to 1934 a/

Funds for which levied	Actual tax rates in mills, year of levy: 1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	Percent distribution, 1934
All State	5.33	5.33	5.33	5.33	4.33	6.8
School districts b/	19.36	18.71	19.73	16.87	20.05	24.8
General school	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	7.7
High school	10.00	9.20	11.77	8.00	5.00	12.8
County road and bridge	6.70	4.75	7.12	7.75	7.00	12.8
Other county	29.38	28.60	38.17	26.75	30.50	33.5
School--debt reduction	1.27	-	-	-	-	-
Total	78.04	72.59	88.12	70.70	72.88	100.0

a/ Data from annual reports of County Clerk.

b/ School districts' rates vary from district to district; the figures shown are a simple average computed by dividing total district taxes by the total taxable valuation of all districts.

As can be seen in Table 4, about one-fourth of all taxes are levied by school districts for elementary schools; about one-twelfth by the county for common schools; one-eighth for high schools, one-sixteenth for the State; and approximately one-half of all taxes for ordinary county purposes, including roads and bridges.

Taxes are levied at the millage rates shown in Table 4 against the taxable valuation, which in the case of real estate, as previously shown by the analysis of optioned tracts, averaged 48.5 percent of appraised value in 1935. On this basis, the consolidated rates shown above represent a tax of from 3$\frac{1}{2}$ to 4$\frac{1}{2}$ percent of the true value of the property. Considerable variation around these average figures would be shown if the actual tax rates of individual school districts had been used. These rates are shown in Table V. Where 19.36 mills was computed in Table 4 as the average district tax rate for 1934, it will be noticed that actual rates for 1934 ranged from slightly more than 1 mill in District #29. Of the 44 districts, 12 levied less than ten mills, 15 levied from ten to fifteen mills, and 17 levied over fifteen mills. Levies in 1935 tended to be somewhat lower. The five-year simple average rates are probably more truly representative of normal conditions. The average rate from 1931 to 1935 was less than 10 mills in 12 districts; 10 to 15 mills in 14 districts; 15 to 20 mills in 13 districts; and varied from 21 to 43 mills in 5 districts. Two of the districts levying in excess of 20 mills, and ten of the districts levying from 15 to 20 mills, are strictly rural districts maintaining one or more one-teacher schools.

D. Tax Delinquency, Extent and Trends

The amounts and recent trends of delinquent taxes on all property are shown in Appendix Table VI. It will be observed that for each of the five years from 1930 to 1934, approximately 30 percent, and for 1929, 22 percent, of all taxes were delinquent on the delinquency date. Data on the amount of levy previous to 1929 were not readily available. However, it is apparent that the absolute amount of annual delinquency has not greatly changed during the past ten years. This would tend to indicate that tax delinquency in this county is not merely a depression phenomenon, but represents the general failure of dry-land farming over a long series of drought years. The trend of total delinquent taxes has, however, been generally upward since 1928. At the close of each of the last three years for which data are shown (1932, 1933, 1934), total back taxes outstanding have exceeded the full amount of taxes levied for the current year. On January 1, 1936, the amount of back taxes outstanding, not including current taxes, was $454,689.

Data for real estate taxes only are shown in Appendix Table VII. The importance of real estate tax delinquency in total delinquency may be observed by comparing parallel figures in Appendix Tables VI and VII, with Table 5 following:

Table 5. Relation of real estate to total delinquent taxes. On levies of 1929 to 1934 inclusive. a/

Year of levy	Annual tax delinquency		
	Total	Real estate	Percent of total
1934	$ 125,475	$ 115,598	92.1
1933	117,943	109,329	92.7
1932	152,476	143,812	94.3
1931	137,959	133,169	96.5
1930	152,180	147,145	96.7
1929	115,270 b/	115,270	100.0

a/ As reported by county clerk.
b/ No Class "B" or personal tax reported delinquent.

During the period shown, while real estate has comprised from one-half to two-thirds of the tax base, it has been responsible for 92 to 100 percent of all tax delinquency. An estimate of the percentage of real estate levy delinquent for recent years is shown in Table 6 next page.

The percentage of real estate taxes delinquent increased from 34.4 percent on the 1929 levy to a high point in 1932 of 57.5 percent, and fell off to 49.2 percent on the levy of 1934. A study recently published by Montana Experiment Station 4/ shows that Phillips County was among the 7 counties in the State in which over 55 percent of the lands were delinquent in taxes due in 1934 (on the 1932 levy).

Status and history of tax payment on lands subject to purchase.

Taxes levied over the nine-year period 1926 to 1934 on lands subject to purchase have been 68.0 percent collected up to February 1936. These collections, however, include not only taxes

4/ Readjusting Montana's Agriculture. No. VIII. Tax Delinquency and Mortgage Foreclosure; by R. R. Renne, Montana Experiment Station Bul. 319, May 1936.

Table 6. Estimated percentage of real estate tax delinquent.

Year of levy	Estimated levy on real estate a/	Taxes delinquent on real estate b/	Percent of real estate levy delinquent
1934	$ 235,194	$ 115,596	49.2
1933	212,706	109,329	51.4
1932	250,220	143,812	57.5
1931	256,156	133,169	52.0
1930	314,023	147,145	46.9
1929	335,549	115,270	34.4

a/ Actual figures for taxes levied on real estate were not available. The estimates used above were derived as follows: The consolidated tax rates shown in Table 4 were applied first, to real estate valuation and second, to total taxable valuation for each of the enumerated years, as shown in Appendix Table I. The taxes so computed on all property were found to differ somewhat from actual figures for total property taxes levied. The ratio of computed to actual total taxes for each year was calculated, and estimates for taxes levied on real estate adjusted accordingly.

b/ Amount delinquent on delinquency date.

paid as due, but all other collections by redemption, assignment of tax certificates, or other means, including more recent settlements in response to the waiver of interest and penalty in 1935 where the taxes so settled were not sufficiently delinquent to provide legal grounds for taking tax deed. All tax collections subsequent to November 1935, and in a few instances earlier in 1935, where such taxes were four years or more delinquent, were considered directly attributable to the land purchase program and tabulated accordingly. These data are presented in Appendix Table VIII.

On all taxed lands subject to purchase in Phillips County (301,551 acres), 52.5 percent of all taxes levied since 1926 were paid as due. The balance, or 47.5 percent, went delinquent. Exact data as to time of subsequent payment and amounts in excess of original tax paid were not secured. Of the original amount levied, 15.5 percent went delinquent and have subsequently been paid either prior to the inauguration of the Federal purchase program, or redeemed before they became eligible for tax deed. Three percent of all taxes levied on the lands being purchased were waived by the county in the process of taking tax titles. Twenty-nine percent is to be paid (and at the time of this analysis are already over half paid) directly as a result of the Federal purchase program. Of approximately $525,200 total

taxes levied during the nine year period, $171,000 were paid as due, $50,000 subsequently redeemed, $9,700 waived by the county, and $94,400 have been paid or are to be paid in connection with Federal purchase of the land. Approximately 60 percent of the taxes, whose payment is attributed to the Federal program, had been paid by January 1, 1936, and 40 percent still remained to be paid. Data are presented by school districts and in total for the county in Table IX. All taxes delinquent on both conservation and resettlement lands subject to purchase with funds allocated for land acquisition at the time of this analysis amounted to $94,462.83. It is estimated that of this amount, approximately $21,000 will go to the funds of the various school districts, $6,552 to the State, $7,803 to the county general school fund, $10,822 to the high school fund, $5,358 to the county road fund, and $42,985 to all other county funds. The individual shares to each district and each fund are shown in the last column Table IX. 5/

E. Public Indebtedness in Phillips County

1. County Debt

On February 16, 1936, the county clerk published a statement to the effect that Phillips County, for the first time in its 21 years of separate entity, had more money on hand than it owed. On that date the total indebtedness of the county was $236,496.92, while total cash resources amounted to $241,686.66, showing a cash balance of $5,189.74. The debt included $200,000 in bonds, and $36,496.92 in outstanding warrants, distributed among the various funds. All outstanding warrants are of current issue, as all old warrants were called on December 31, 1935. Resources showed sinking fund investments of $45,000 and sinking fund cash $61,051.15, or a total in sinking fund of $106,051.15. Cash in operating funds

5/ The distributive shares presented in the last column of Table IX were calculated from the totals (paid and to be paid) as shown in the preceding column. Total delinquent taxes on the levy of each individual year in each school district were first prorated among the various funds (district, county, and State) in proportion to the respective tax rates effective on general property within the school district during that year. Secondly, the annual items due each district were then totalled to derive the total district share, and finally, all items due other funds (State and county) were summed up by funds to show the total share belonging to each particular fund. This is essentially the procedure followed by the County Treasurer in prorating receipts from delinquent taxes among the various funds.

totalled $135,635.51. The favorable balance is attributed to several circumstances, including reduced county budgets, better farm prices which encouraged larger regular tax payment, crop reduction payments, waiver of interest on delinquent taxes paid before November first, and Federal purchase of submarginal and resettlement lands. The waiver of interest worked in conjunction with Federal land purchase to encourage delinquent tax payment in a great many instances where delinquent taxes with interest would have exhausted the vendor's equity, but waiver of the interest left enough equity to constitute an inducement to sell. In many of these cases the delinquent taxes with interest exceeded the appraised price, so that the sale would not satisfy the tax claim. As a result of the waiver, many of these places were offered for sale.

A record of the debt history of Phillips County for the past 10 years is shown in Appendix Table X. Phillips County was created from portions of Blaine and Valley Counties in 1915. Its first indebtedness, in the amount of $193,000, was incurred immediately for purposes of refunding its share of the old debt. Since that time other issues have been made for various purposes, and at various times, as indicated in Appendix Table X. It will be noted that during the ten years shown the county has never failed to make payment when due, has never been in default on interest or principal, and has reduced its bond debt progressively every year. Warrant debt has at no time been excessive, being at most about one-half of the operating budget for any given year. It is not shown how sinking fund credits compared each year with sinking fund requirements, as figures for sinking fund cash were not separately reported. However, it is apparent that requirements were not always met in the earlier years. Nevertheless, determined debt reduction has brought the county out to its present favorable position with a net cash balance in 1936.

2. School District Indebtedness

As shown in Appendix Table XI, twenty-five of the 44 districts in the county had outstanding bonds, and only 3 had outstanding warrants, as of January 1, 1936. The low warrant debt may be largely attributed to the enactment by the legislature in 1933 of a law authorizing school boards to issue ten-year bonds for the purpose of refunding outstanding warrants, without submitting the question to the voters in the respective districts (Ch. 107 S.L. 1933). Nine districts (See Appendix Table XI) took advantage of the opportunity to fund their floating debts. These bonds were all purchased by the State. Since the constitutional debt limitation of 5 percent of assessed valuation still applied,

District 29, Bowdoin, whose gross debt exceeded 3 percent, could not participate in the benefits of this Act.

It will be noted that the heaviest bond debt has been incurred by the districts including the incorporated towns. These are District #2, Dodson; District #12, Saco; District #14, Malta; District #20, Whitewater; District #29, Bowdoin; and District #47, Loring.

The respective debt burdens upon the various districts can perhaps best be expressed in terms of the annual levy required for interest and principal reduction and the number of years to maturity. This information is shown in Appendix Table XII. It is obvious that the districts including incorporated towns bear the heaviest debt burden. District #29, Bowdoin, is in the most difficult circumstances, since it is faced with the prospect of levying 48.07 mills a year for the next two years if it is to prevent default on bond interest or principal, and at the same time retire its warrants as required by law. It will probably be necessary for this district, and perhaps others, to refund present debt over a longer period, with provision for purchase of the bonds by the State. District #2, Dodson, must retire two issues of bonds within five years, requiring an annual levy for debt service of 13.93 mills. District #14, Malta, has 4 years to maturity on its bonds, and must levy 11.14 mills each year. Other districts are in less pressing circumstances. It is to be noted that these calculations make no allowance for tax delinquency, nor for reductions in tax base through Federal land purchase.

Recognizing the situation of school districts with excessive warrant debt, the State Legislature enacted two measures during the special session of 1934 designed to put the school district debt situation in order. The first of these was an act to permit school districts to operate on a cash basis (Ch. 34, Ex. Session 1933-34). Briefly, it provides: In case the total indebtedness of a school district reaches the constitutional limit of 3 percent, the district may operate on a cash basis, provided that it must set aside sufficient moneys to meet interest and sinking fund requirements on bonds. This replaces the previous law requiring that outstanding warrants be paid in the order of their registration.

To prevent undue delay in clearing up the outstanding warrant debt, a companion measure was enacted (Ch. 44, Ex. Session 1933-34), which provides: That districts with warrants outstanding at the close of the school year ending June 30, 1934, must provide for the payment of such warrants or so much thereof as is in excess

of funds available for such payment, in the following manner: by filing with the County Commissioners not later than the second Monday in July 1934, a written request that the Commissioners levy a special tax against the taxable property in the district, sufficient to pay the full amount with interest, during the ensuing fiscal year, or a tax sufficient to pay 35 percent during the ensuing fiscal year, and the whole amount with the interest thereon not later than July 1, 1937. For this purpose there is to be created a special "Warrant debt reduction fund", into which the proceeds of the special levy will be paid, and which cannot be used for any purpose except warrant debt reduction and interest until the same shall all have been paid. Any high school warrants are made an obligation of the county and are paid out of the money derived by the county from the high school tax, in the following manner: Not less than 35 percent included in the high school budget for the school year beginning July 1, 1934; not less than one-half the following year, and any balance the third year.

Since the enactment of these laws, the various districts have operated on a cash basis, and warrant debt has virtually disappeared except in the case of District #29. It does not appear possible that District #29 can pay out within the time limits imposed by the maturity dates of its bonds and the legal requirements with regard to warrants. If both bonds and warrants were refunded, and the district continues to operate on a cash basis and greatly restricted budget as at present, District #29 should be able to liquidate its indebtedness within the next ten years. Without refunding, even if warrant debt reduction could be spread over a five-year period, the annual levy for debt service alone during the next 3 years would approximate 32 mills on the present taxable valuation. It is to be noted that no land is being purchased in District #29 under present acquisition programs.

F. County and School District Finance

It has been previously shown (in Table 4 of the text) that somewhat less than half the taxes levied in the county are for county purposes including road and bridge construction and maintenance; not quite half for schools including district school levies and the county general school and high school levies, and the balance of about 7 percent for State funds. No space will be devoted here to State costs since they are not directly related to revenues from the area, nor will they be materially affected in any way by the land purchase program.

1. Sources of County Receipts.

Phillips County, as will be seen in Table XIII, in the year ending June 30, 1935, received about 75 percent of its annual revenues from general property taxes, current and delinquent, about 7 percent from automobile registrations, almost 7 percent from tax-deed land rentals and sales, and the remaining 11 percent from several miscellaneous sources as shown. Comparable figures for 1926 show 84 percent of revenues from taxes current and delinquent, about 7 percent from automobile registrations, none from tax deed lands, and about the same proportions as for 1935 from other sources. Collections of current taxes reached their peak in 1930, collections of delinquent taxes in 1928, which was an unusually favorable crop year. Income from tax deed lands has fluctuated widely during the 10 years for which data were secured, due very largely to changes in county policy with regard to the taking of tax deeds and administering of lands so acquired. However, with approximately 300,000 acres now in county ownership, and considerable balances still due the county on previous sales, there will undoubtedly be considerable revenue from this source in the future.

It will be noted that both current and delinquent tax collections in 1935 show substantial increases over the preceding year. This fact has been mentioned earlier and the reasons discussed in connection with county indebtedness.

2. County Expenditures.

County expenditures are shown in Appendix Table XIV. The major items of cost are general government, which represents from one-fourth to one-third of all costs, and highways and bridges, which account for another fourth. About one-fourth goes for debt payments, interest and principal, approximately a tenth for "outside poor", 5 percent for other health and welfare work, and 4 to 6 percent for miscellaneous purposes. Receipts from automobile registrations go to the road and bridge fund, and are supplemented by a per capita road tax of $2, and by proceeds of road and bridge tax levies on general property which usually run from 6 to 10 mills. Other services are supported by general taxes, each by a specific levy. In 1935 these were: general fund 9 mills, road 4, bridge 2.7, poor 6, bond sinking 4, bond interest 8.9, and other minor funds totalling 1.48 mills.

Expenditures for general government have been reduced by almost one-half since their peak in 1930, county poor costs have almost trebled, and payments of interest have been reduced by one-half as the debt has been paid off. Other cost payments tend to remain relatively constant.

3. School District Receipts.

Elementary schools receive their support from the State apportionment fund, the county six-mill levy, and the local district tax. Weak districts usually receive some additional support from the State equalization fund. 6/ The receipts of school districts in Phillips County from the various sources for the year ending June 30, 1935 are shown in Appendix Table XV, together with the percentage of total from each source. It will be noted that the local district tax contributes the greater part to district revenues. Of the 44 school districts, 9 received more than 75 percent of their revenues from local taxes, 26 received more than 50 percent, and only 3 received less than one-third of their revenues from this source. As a weighted average of all school district receipts for the year, approximately 66 percent were derived from the local district levy. Seventeen of the 44 districts received aid from the State equalization fund, in the amounts shown in Appendix Table XV. Receipts from the State apportionment fund and county apportionment of the proceeds of the 6 mill levy were $6.10 and $9.90 per census child, respectively.

4. School District Expenditures.

School district expenditures in 1935 for the various purposes are shown in Appendix Table XVI. These figures represent total expenditures of the districts, including capital outlay and payments for interest and debt reduction. Operating costs as presented in this table are broken down as to purpose of expenditure, and appear in Table XVII. Instruction costs include, in addition to teacher salary, all items such as materials, supplies and textbooks.

It may be noted that expenditures for transportation are of significance in but few districts. Adequate legal provision has been made (see appendix on pupil transportation) for bus transportation by bonded carrier where 5 or more pupils reside on one route. However, the generally sparse distribution of pupils would render extremely costly transportation by bonded carrier as the law prescribes, except for the few isolated instances where a number of pupils could be handled on one route and make possible the closing of one or more one-room schools. Ordinarily, this is not the case. The great distances which would have to be covered, over roads

6/ See discussion and citation of recent enactment creating State public school general fund, also discussion of equalization aid provisions, Publication 18-b.

generally but little improved, together with the extreme winter climate which is usually to be expected, render any plans for a formal transportation system too costly and too hazardous to be seriously contemplated.

Where less than 5 pupils are to be transported, the law provides for the following schedule of payments:

Miles	First child per day	Each add'l. child per day
3 to 4	35¢	10¢
4 to 5	45¢	12.5¢
5 to 6	55¢	15¢
6 to 7	65¢	17.5¢
7 to 8	75¢	20¢
8 and over	75¢	25¢

The schedule is virtually nullified by the provision that it may be modified by the board of trustees with the approval of the county superintendent "if they deem it for the best interests of the children and taxpayers of the district". In practice, far less than the prescribed schedule of payment is usually allowed. With little or no exception, transportation facilities are furnished by the pupils or parents and a nominal payment made by the district to offset the costs of transportation. In many cases, payments made are used for the rent of quarters and living expenses of pupils domiciled during the winter months in the towns where they attend school. Often the entire family moves to town in order that the children may continue in school throughout the winter months. Whatever payments for transportation (or in lieu thereof) are received go toward the family maintenance during these months.

Transfers to other districts, as shown in Appendix Table XVII, are probably transfers of State and county apportionment money in lieu of tuition for pupils attending in other districts. This is in accordance with Section 1013, (Ch. 109 SL. 1929), as set forth in the Appendix to this report. While trustees of school districts are empowered by law to fix the rate of tuition of non-resident pupils, in practice the transfer of county and State apportionment is all that is generally required.

5. Cost of School Operation.

Expenditures for individual schools are not separately recorded or reported. Except for the item of teacher salary, all data are reported as district totals only. In districts maintaining more than one school, or employing more than one teacher, it

has been necessary to make rather broad estimates in order to derive approximate figures for costs of education per school or per pupil. 7/ Estimates of these costs are shown for individual one-room schools, listed according to enrollment, in Appendix Table XVIII. All one-room schools are ranked in the table according to enrollment, the smaller schools first. Of 72 operating schools, 11 had 5 pupils or less, 21 had 6 to 8 pupils, 14 had 9 to 10 pupils, 13 had 11 to 15 pupils, 9 had 16 to 20 pupils, and 4 had 21 to 25 pupils enrolled. While costs per school tend to be rather fixed, varying but little with the enrollment, costs per pupil were much higher in the smaller schools, and correspondingly less as enrollment increased. Costs per pupil in schools of 5 pupils or less were more than three times the corresponding costs in schools of 20 to 25 pupils. A summary of these data are presented in Table 7 below. The average cost of all one-room schools in the county was $814.21 for the term, or $78.90 per child enrolled. This amounted to 53 cents a day per child in average daily attendance.

Table 7. Summary of costs of one-teacher schools grouped according to enrollment for school year ending June 30, 1935

Enrollment per school	No. of schools	Aggregate enrollment	Aggregate pupil-days attendance	Aggregate costs	AVERAGE COSTS		
					Per school	Per child enrolled	Per child day taught
1 to 5	11	48	7,586	7,827.71	711.61	163.08	1.03
6 to 10	35	283	43,486	27,349.87	781.42	96.64	.63
11 to 15	13	157	23,346	10,043.72	772.59	63.97	.43
16 to 20	9	160	22,327	8,878.30	986.48	55.49	.40
21 to 25	4	95	14,312	4,523.62	1,130.91	47.62	.32
All schools	72	743	111,057	58,623.22	814.21	78.90	.53

7/ As a basis for estimating expenditures for any one school, the salary of the teacher was added to the following items: maintenance, operation and fixed charges pro rata according to the number of schools; other instructional costs, transportation, etc., approximately in proportion to the number of pupils. Where schools were in the same general enrollment class, as, for example, 5 to 9 pupils, and financial statistics were not available in detail, the usual procedure followed was to pro rate all auxiliary costs equally among schools, on the assumption that these costs are relatively fixed per school, and do not vary significantly with the enrollment.

Cost for the school year per child enrolled in schools of five pupils or less averaged $163.08, while corresponding costs in schools of 21 to 25 pupils averaged less than one-third of this amount, or $47.62 per child. In each successively larger size-group, the average cost per pupil was considerably less. It may be noted that the cost of schooling in schools of 5 pupils or less exceeded $1 a day for each child in average daily attendance, while in schools of 11 to 15 pupils it was 43 cents, in schools of 16 to 20 pupils, 40 cents, and in schools with 21 to 25 pupils, only 32 cents a day for each child. Teacher salaries in these schools with few exceptions ranged from $65 to $75 a month, and most schools were maintained for a term of 8 or 9 months.

Elementary schools with more than one teacher are few in number in Phillips County. Only 5 such schools were maintained in the year ended June 30, 1935. These schools are enumerated in Table 8, with estimated costs per school and per pupil. It will be observed that costs per pupil are appreciably lower than in the lower-enrollment one-teacher schools, but inclined to be more costly per pupil than the larger one-teacher schools, except in the Malta city schools, and for the Cole school in District 10. The extremely low cost of the Cole school might be attributable to the fact that teachers' salaries were paid in part by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, and apparently these payments were not included in the cost statement. The operation within the Cole district of a gravel pit in connection with the construction of the Fort Peck dam brought in a considerable number of families, temporarily creating a difficult school situation, which has been met at least in part by F.E.R.A. teacher aid.

6. High Schools in Phillips County.

High schools in Phillips County are supported entirely by a uniform and county-wide high school levy. The high school tax rate was 10 mills in 1935, and has averaged slightly more than 10 mills annually for the past four years. The proceeds of the tax are distributed on the basis of the number of pupils enrolled for forty days or more in each school during the previous school year. The high school budget per child varies somewhat according to the size of school, and the apportionment per child is scaled according to the budget. Since the apportionment per child is higher in the smaller schools, the larger schools, such as Malta, are in a sense penalized for their greater efficiency. The apportionment per high school pupil enrolled is sufficiently high to induce great competition on the part of the smaller schools for the enrollment.

Five high schools were in operation in Phillips County during the school year ended June 30, 1935. These schools are shown,

Table 8. Estimated costs of multiple-teacher schools for school year ending June 30, 1935.

District	Name of school	No. of teachers	Original enrollment	Aggregate daily attendance	Estimated operation costs: Total	Per pupil enrolled	Per pupil-day taught
10	Cole-upper	1	33	4,762	557.35	16.89	.12
	Cole-lower	1	33	3,010	557.36	16.89	.19
14	Malta	12	386	59,531	18,200.09	47.15	.31
17	Strater-upper	1	14	2,182	733.20	52.37	.34
	Strater-lower	1	18	2,958	733.20	40.73	.25
12	Saco	6	168	23,137	9,207.19	54.80	.40
2	Dodson	4	156	14,204	7,483.06	47.38	.53

together with enrollment and cost data in Table 9 below. Considerably over half of all high school pupils enrolled in the county attend the Malta High School, which in the school year 1935-1936 had an original enrollment of 255 pupils. Dodson and Saco had 56 and 74 respectively, while the Loring and Whitewater schools in the northern part of the county had only 27 and 25, respectively. High schools formerly maintained in Bowdoin and Landusky were not in operation during the last school year. While complete statistics of high schools were not obtained, it seems apparent that the Loring and Whitewater high schools are but two-teacher schools.

Table 9. Operating costs of high schools, for school year ending June 30, 1935.

District #	Name of high school	1935-36 enrollment	Operating costs - 1935: Total	Instruction	Fixed charges & cap. outlay	Total cost per pupil enrolled
2	Dodson	56	6,304.93	4,563.47	1,741.46	112.59
12	Saco	74	10,820.09	8,874.56	1,945.53	146.22
14	Malta	255	16,538.63	12,573.33	3,965.30	64.88
20	Whitewater	25	3,984.14	3,774.18	209.96	119.37
29	Bowdoin	(Closed)	2,636.58	1,676.23	960.35	-
47	Loring	27	3,760.18	3,192.50	567.68	102.23
7	Landusky	(Closed)		(Closed)		

Operating costs per child were highest in Saco, at $146.22, and lowest in Malta, where the cost was $64.86. The other three smaller schools were all over the $100 mark. During recent years the efforts of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the County Superintendent have been directed toward the elimination of the smaller, less efficient high schools. This policy, however, has been opposed with some determination by the districts which maintain smaller high schools. A recent change in the law with respect to high school transportation (See Sec. 44-Transportation of High School Pupils, in the appendix) might be interpreted as giving preference to the smaller, outlying high schools, in the matter of providing transportation or quarters for high school pupils, to be financed by the county as a whole. The law provides that "if said district which maintains the accredited high school nearest or most accessible to the pupil's residence does not furnish transportation or rent of quarters, then any other school within the county which maintains an accredited high school may furnish such transportation or rent of quarters". (Underscoring added). "The moneys needed to defray the expenses of such rent of quarters, or of such transportation may be included in the amount to be raised by the special county tax for the maintenance of high schools". This provision will probably stand in the way of any plan looking to the elimination of the outlying smaller high schools.

G. Recent Trends in School Census and School Abandonment

While the total school census population of Phillips County has been relatively stable since 1925, extreme variations have occurred in the different districts. In general poorer rural areas have lost population since 1920, while the towns and better land areas have gained. These general conclusions are drawn from an examination of school census data taken at five-year intervals from 1920 to 1935. These data are presented in Appendix Table XIX. Since district boundaries have changed considerably from year to year, it has been necessary to combine certain districts according to the original organization, in the case of recent splits, and current organization in the case of recent consolidations. The most drastic reductions in population occurred in the Bowdoin district, #29, and in Districts 30, 23, and 33. In District 29, school census population declined steadily from 180 in 1920 to 30 in 1935, a loss of five-sixths of the 1920 figure. In district 30 in the north-central area, an equivalent decline occurred, from 36 in 1920 to 6 in 1935. A reduction of three-fourths in school census population occurred in District 33, and four-fifths in District 23. Throughout the southern half of the county, school census population during the 15 years fell from 10 to 75 percent. Exception to this

statement is made for District 26 where a slight increase occurred, and for Districts 28 and 38 which include considerable areas of good tillable land. In the two latter districts, school census population increased over 50 percent. In the poorer land areas in the northern portion of the county, the decline in population has ranged from 10 to 50 percent, while the towns (Loring and Whitewater) have seen increases. The great increase in District 10 since 1930 has resulted from the working of a gravel pit in connection with construction of the Fort Peck dam, and is not to be considered either normal or of a permanent nature.

The influence of crop conditions upon rural population is apparent in the changes in trend which generally occurred between 1925 and 1930. During this period climatic conditions were generally favorable for farming. The crops of 1927 and 1928 were particularly good. Largely as a result of this fact, school census population increased in 23 of the 44 districts, and the rate of decrease in most of the others was considerably diminished. Since 1930, however, the ebb of population from the poorer land areas has continued unabated.

The considerable reduction of school census population in recent years and migration within the area has created a highly unstable school situation. School districts have been created, only to be abandoned within a few years. School houses have been constructed, used for a few years, and abandoned as the families who demanded them moved away. In January 1938, according to estimates of the county superintendent, 70 schools were in operation, while 35 or exactly one-half as many, stood empty and abandoned. The location of these schools by districts is shown in Appendix Table XX.

III. FISCAL EFFECTS OF THE FEDERAL LAND PURCHASE PROJECT UPON LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN PHILLIPS COUNTY

A. Effects on the tax base

Approximately 315,000 acres of conservation land and 8,920 acres of resettlement land were subject to purchase with funds allocated for land acquisition at the time the present study was undertaken (February 1936). At that time, options on the greater part of these lands had already been accepted. A smaller area of a few thousand acres was designated, for the purpose of this report, as preferred for acceptance, and included in the total acreage to be purchased. The resettlement land includes the Malta Homesteads project South of Wagner, and a number of scattered tracts along the Milk River in the Milk River Infiltration Project. The conservation lands are scattered rather widely throughout the purchase area, with the greatest concentration in four sites: between the Saco-Northwest branch of the Great Northern and the Canadian Line in the northern fifth of the county; between the Milk River and Beaver Creek in the center of the county; south of Beaver Creek; and east of Content in the southeastern part of the county.

The greatest area purchased in any one school district is the 33,980 acres in District 5. This represents about one-eighth of the land area of the district. By the same rough estimates, the 30,000 acres purchased in District 36 represent about three-tenths of the land area of the district, and the 18,000 acres purchased in District 14 are about one-sixth of its land area. In District 22, the 28,000 acres purchased represent about one-third of the total area, while in District 45 about two-fifths of the land is being purchased, and about one-half in District 19.

Resettlement land is located in the districts along the Milk River. About 1,700 acres are located in District 14, 3,580 in District 4, 1,364 in District 2, 1,442 in District 3, and lesser acreages in Districts 15, 17, 21, and 32.

Approximately 13,000 acres or 4 percent of the conservation land was not on the tax rolls at the time of optioning. These tracts consisted of incompleted homestead entries, title to which had not yet been passed by the Federal government. The 301,551 acres of conservation land being purchased, which were on the tax rolls in 1935, had a total taxable valuation of approximately $376,000. This amount will be removed from the county tax base

of $5,023,873. Prospective reductions in tax base of the several districts as a result of Federal purchase (and consequent tax exemption) are shown in Appendix Table XXI. The districts have been separated into two groups accordingly as their tax bases do or do not include public utility (chiefly railroad) properties, and in each group the individual districts have been ranked according to the percentage reduction in tax base through Federal land purchase. In districts having no public utilities, the tax base is comprised entirely of real estate and personal property; in these districts the tax base is as a rule smaller, and the percentage reduction higher, than in districts having utilities. Almost three-fourths of the land acreage being purchased is located in 25 outlying districts without utilities. In these districts the average taxable valuation in 1935 was $70,359, and the average reduction will be 15.2 percent of the tax base; while in 14 districts having utilities, the average tax base was $201,956, and the average reduction only 3.8 percent. The county tax base will be reduced 7.5 percent by the purchase of the 301,551 acres of land. No land was purchased from Phillips County. A number of tracts nominally county owned, and for several years off the tax rolls, were offered by the former owner with the consent of the county. These tracts have been included with the "taxable lands" and treated accordingly throughout. The above figures do not include 13,285 acres of incompleted homestead land which were not on the tax rolls at the time of purchase, or the 6,920 acres of resettlement land. Presumably any reductions in tax base as a result of land purchased for resettlement purposes will be compensated for by special agreements under the Bankhead Act (Public No. 845 Seventy-Fourth Congress, Second Session). 1/

Of the districts not having utility property, the tax base of three (Districts 33, 22, and 25) will be reduced 49 percent, 44 percent, and 43 percent, respectively. In 5 other districts the reductions will range from 24 to 38 percent, and in another 5, from 10 to 16 percent. In 12 districts reductions in tax base will be less than 10 percent and in two districts no purchases have as yet been made. Of the districts having utility property, District 19 will suffer a reduction in tax base of 18 percent, while no other district will lose as much as 10 percent.

1/ This Act authorizes the Administrator of the Resettlement Administration to enter into agreements with States and local units of government to pay sums in lieu of taxes for costs of services rendered to resettlement projects or residents thereon.

B. Effects on Annual Tax Revenues

The removal of 301,551 acres of land from the tax rolls of Phillips County will reduce total tax revenues of all jurisdictions concerned (State, county, and the several school districts) by approximately $24,558 annually. This estimate is based upon the annual average tax collections on land purchased for the 9-year period 1926-1934. Detailed data concerning taxes on purchased lands are presented in Appendix Table XXII. Taxes levied against these lands averaged $35,943.99, or approximately 12 cents an acre annually for the 9 years. Approximately $24,500 were collected as due, redeemed, or otherwise paid without the influence of the Federal land purchase program. Collections represented 68 percent of taxes levied annually, and averaged 8 cents per acre throughout the 9-year period.

The $24,558.31 annually collected in taxes on the lands purchased is estimated to be distributed to the various funds, on the basis of average tax rates, in the amounts indicated in Table XXIII. State tax revenues from lands subject to purchase averaged $1,737 annually. All school districts received $5,414.55, general school fund taxes $1,966, high school fund, $3,255, county road and bridge fund taxes $3,255, and all other county funds, $8,930. The average annual revenues from lands purchased represents 7.4 percent of the 1935 tax levy for all funds, exclusive of school districts.

Individual school districts shared in the average annual collections in the amounts indicated in the third column of Table XXIV. The districts are ranked in the order of the ratio of annual tax revenue from the lands purchased to total tax revenue in the year ending June 30, 1935. The ratio to total revenue from all sources is also shown. It may be noted that the order of districts is substantially the same as in Table XXI, which shows the effects upon tax base. In District 33 the ratio of average annual tax revenues from lands purchased to total tax revenues in 1935 is 64.8 percent; in 3 other districts the ratio exceeds 35 percent; in 4, the ratio ranges from 20 to 30 percent; and in 6 others, from 11 to 17 percent. In 23 districts the ratio is less than 10 percent. The maximum reduction in revenues from all sources, as measured in terms of 1935 revenues, would be 25.8 percent in District 33. Two other districts would lose over 20 percent and 6 would lose from 10 to 17 percent. School revenues in 1935 were fairly representative of the 3-year period 1933 through 1935, particularly with regard to district taxes, and receipts from the State apportionment of the general school fund and the county apportionment of proceeds from the 6-mill levy. These are the major sources of revenue in all instances. State equalization aid receipts varied somewhat, but these are at most a minor source of revenue. In this analysis, no attempt has been made to

estimate effects of the program upon revenues other than taxes, because of the difficulty of determining accurately prospective population changes, and also because recent legislative enactments changing the State aid provisions cannot as yet be adequately appraised in terms of their revenue possibilities.

C. Effect of Tax Base Reductions on Ability to Service Indebtedness

The indebtedness of the county and school districts may be expressed in terms of the taxable valuation of property upon which the debt constitutes a lien. This is done in Table XXV, which shows the influence of the land purchase program upon the tax base of the county and the various districts in which land is being purchased. For this purpose, net debt has been computed simply by subtracting sinking funds from gross bonded and warrant debt. It may be noted that delinquent taxes are not treated as an asset for purposes of determining the net debt. The amount of debt outstanding on January 1, 1936 per $1,000 of valuation prior to removal of land purchased from the tax rolls, is seen to range from $1.16 in District 21 to $101.63 in District 29. It so happens that no land is being purchased in either of these districts. Removal of the land purchased from the tax base would increase the debt per $1,000 of value in each district as indicated in Appendix Table XXV. Increases would be particularly noticeable in districts where land purchase is concentrated, particularly where real estate makes up the major part of the tax base. This is true in District 22, where the debt load would increase from $17.20 to $30.95 per $1,000; in District 24, where an increase would occur from $26.56 to $42.20; in District 33, from $30.41 to $59.36 or practically double; and in District 36, where the debt per $1,000 would jump from $29.76 to $46.10.

These calculations, however, do not take account of delinquent taxes collected as a result of the purchase program, a considerable portion of which would otherwise have been uncollectable. While there can be no definite assurance that receipts from back taxes will be used to retire outstanding debt, other than warrants, a fair appraisal of the effects of the Federal program on the debt situation should consider these receipts, which are of considerable proportions in many instances. As previously noted, delinquent taxes have not been treated as assets in computing net debt. Since their collection is largely attributable to the land-purchase program, and is more or less fortuitous as far as the current budgets of local units of government are concerned, it seems reasonable that these receipts be considered a direct benefit

of the Federal program to be weighed against any calculated obligation of the Federal government toward the servicing of local public debt.

Since local indebtedness is met by general taxes, it constitutes a general obligation on the property tax base. Therefore, the most logical basis for attributing any share of local indebtedness to the Federal government in view of its land-buying activities would be on the basis of its taxable valuation in relation to the total tax base. That is to say, in any local governmental unit, the portion of local debt for which the Federal government might be considered liable should bear the same ratio to the total debt as the taxable valuation of the land purchased bears to the total taxable valuation. Figures for debt shares attributable to the lands purchased have been calculated from Appendix Table XXV, and are presented in the first column of Table XXVI.

It will be noted that the net debt figures on which these calculations are based are reported as of January 1, 1936, while the estimated shares of delinquent tax receipts previously calculated, and presented in Table IX, had already been approximately 60 percent paid prior to that date. It was therefore necessary to estimate the shares of delinquent taxes still outstanding as of January 1, 1936, to establish a fair basis for comparison with the figures for debt attributable to purchased land, as presented in Appendix Table XXVI. These estimates have been made, 2/ and are presented in Column 2, of the same table.

2/ The method of estimating distributive shares of taxes still outstanding against lands purchased, as of January 1, 1936, was briefly as follows: from the worksheets used in distributing total back taxes, the relative proportions going to each fund were determined; these proportions were then applied to the figures for taxes remaining to be paid as shown in Column 2, Appendix Figure IX, thereby deriving the shares of each fund in the taxes to be collected in each district. The shares to certain individual districts on account of district taxes are as shown in column one Appendix Table XXVII. All items were totalled by funds, and found to be distributed as follows:

All school districts	$ 8,461.09
State funds	2,564.72
General school fund	3,051.60
High school fund	4,247.91
County road fund	2,090.60
All other county funds	16,822.11
Total	$37,238.03

The figure for county share presented in the footing of Column 2, Appendix Table XXVI, includes county road fund and all other

(Cont'd.)

From these figures, it may be seen that in all except 6 of the 24 districts having indebtedness, and in which land is being purchased, the delinquent taxes being paid as a result of purchase exceed the share of district debt attributable on a valuation basis to the land purchased. Total district receipts from the back taxes collected will exceed by more than half the total attributable debt ($9,419.52 as compared with $6,901.29). These receipts, however, will not be distributed in exact proportion to the debt. As a result, in 6 districts approximately $673 of debt which has constituted, in effect, an obligation against the valuation of the lands being purchased, will be shifted to other property in the tax base of the respective districts. This figure would represent about the maximum of compensation to school districts for debt service which the Federal government might reasonably be expected to assume.

In the case of the county, the estimated receipts of back taxes on lands purchased, amounting to approximately $19,000, exceeds by more than twice the share of county debt attributable to lands purchased in the county. There would, therefore, appear to be no valid case for government assumption of any part of the county debt, while the shift in district indebtedness appears too trifling to serve as a justification for any comprehensive debt adjustment program.

D. Reductions in Governmental Costs

Cost reductions immediately apparent as directly attributable to the resettlement program are necessarily trivial in importance. It may be generally stated that the actual realization of governmental economies in the county depend more upon reorganization of the structure of local government than upon any activity of the Federal government. As a matter of fact, the inherent benefits of the Federal program in this direction will be realized

(Footnote 2 cont'd.)

county funds. The share due the county general school fund has been prorated to the various districts on the basis of the 1935 school census in the amounts shown in Appendix Table XXVII, and are included with district taxes in Appendix Table XXVI. Receipts to the high school fund will be taken into account in preparing the high school budget for the subsequent year. Since there is no specific debt against the high school fund and State debt is of little concern in this analysis, shares for these funds are not treated in Table XXVI, nor are the shares of districts having no debt.

almost solely to the extent that a more efficient organization for the performance of essential services can be facilitated and promoted.

With regard to county costs, adequate legal provision already exists for combining of offices, or such other devices as may be found profitable for the reduction of county expenditures. While the number of assessments and some other items of office work may be reduced because of the removal of land from the tax base, these are likely to be of dubious advantage to the county, considering the loss of taxable valuation. No significant reduction in road or bridge cost can be certainly anticipated as a result of the land program, although some part of the development work may take the place of work which would otherwise have been performed at county expense, if considered necessary. Generally speaking, it appears that any significant reductions in county costs will result from internal changes in the number of salaried officers or similar changes which could just as well be brought about independently of the Federal program. Such benefits as the county is receiving from the program are attributable to the very considerable collections of taxes, current and delinquent, as a result of the Federal program, the general prosperity induced by Federal spending, and the stimulus being given to conservative land use, which will provide a more stable basis for future governmental revenues.

Concerning school costs, it may be similarly stated that reductions inherent in the Federal program can be fully realized only through reorganization, and in no other way. Brief consideration will show why this is true. If cost reductions were to be anticipated purely as a result of land acquisition and resettlement, without commensurate action on the part of local government, and leaving present taxing jurisdictions intact, it would be necessary to presume that areas purchased would be completely contiguous, that evacuation would be complete, and that local government would cease to have jurisdiction and responsibility over the areas acquired. Moreover, this solid acquisition would have to be coterminous with certain local boundaries, such as those of school districts, without lapping over into the adjacent districts. Even so, this would leave islands of Federal jurisdiction within the boundaries of the county. Obviously, such assumptions are false.

The concept of complete evacuation as a device for reducing costs has a second major weakness when the future use of the areas is considered. Particularly in large areas, such as the acquisition area in Phillips County, economic use will require a certain amount of residence upon suitable sites within its boundaries. Since resettlement cannot and undoubtedly should not be

complete with respect to any considerable area, and since the tax exemption of lands purchased will leave many present school districts with tax bases inadequate for the maintenance of present schools, while at the same time the need for many of these schools will be reduced through resettlement, it appears inescapable that present school districts must for the most part be reorganized.

The extent to which reorganization, both of administrative units (school districts) and attendance areas, should go will depend upon a number of complex factors not predictable in this study. In the writer's opinion, the county rural school unit should be adopted, and the designation of schools to be operated in any given year left to the judgment of a county school board. This plan appears to be the only one offering sufficient flexibility to permit adjustments to changing requirements, particularly considering present and potential maladjustments resulting from farm abandonment, migration, and resettlement. The possibility of Federal compensation to local governments on account of tax exemption of lands purchased presents another strong argument for consolidation. Such compensation should not be made to present inefficient districts, some of which may no longer have an educational responsibility as families are removed. Other districts where families remain might be entitled to no compensation under such an arrangement. The county unit system would provide for the most equitable use of any Federal funds which will be allowed as well as the State and county funds.

Adequate statutory authority already exists for suitable school district reorganization in Chapter 80, compiled school laws of Montana, regarding rural school districts. (Study 18-b) The consolidation therein provided for would bring into one administrative unit all rural districts in the county with less than one thousand population. In effect, this would provide for a county unit omitting only the Malta District number 14, and the rural sections of it could be detached to become part of the "Rural District".

An examination of the present population pattern, in relation to schools, with some indication of which families are anticipating resettlement, indicates that there are likely opportunities for reducing school costs with some degree of reorganization. A few such possibilities are enumerated in Appendix Table XXVIII. It appears reasonably certain that the 9 schools enumerated, in seven districts, could readily be closed at no great inconvenience to anyone, for an annual saving of approximately $5,000. In each case some substitute provision would be required, as indicated, for pupils remaining in the attendance area.

Other similar opportunities exist in the county, but are likely to be realizable only through wholesale reorganization of the districts. A noteworthy example is that found in the area, approximately a township (6 miles square) in extent, around the Soennichson, Grytdahl and Pearson schools. (See Exhibit One), map attached. Here six schools are operated within a maximum radius of seven miles, in four separate school districts.

A thorough-going analysis of the possibilities of further reductions in school costs could be made only on the basis of complete and accurate data of the location of all farm families and farms likely to be occupied by families. An attempt was made to secure these data at the time the analysis presented herewith was made, in January and February, 1936. Assessment records, the official registration lists for 1934, and other county records were consulted. However, failure of the lists so compiled to account for all parents of school census children, as enumerated in 1935, created reasonable doubts as to the completeness, if not the accuracy, of these lists. Consequently, no detailed estimates of possible economies through reorientation of school attendance areas were attempted. It seems certain, however, that establishment of the county unit system, or at least far-reaching and well considered consolidations of school districts in rural areas, offers real opportunities for improvement of school finance in Phillips County.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Reorganization of School Districts

Local school districts should be consolidated into a county school unit, in order to equalize the school tax burden and promote greater efficiency in school maintenance. The current Federal program of land acquisition and resettlement merely brings to a head a long-existing need for school reorganization in Phillips County. Farm abandonment and migration from rural districts during the past decade have in many instances distorted their earlier significance, as taxable valuation has wasted away, or school enrolment has dwindled and disappeared. These processes are to some extent augmented by the Federal effort to rationalize land use and, indirectly, by the distribution of rural families in relation to the land.

Ultimately, Phillips County should adopt the county unit school system, by which all schools would be administered by a county school board, and supported by a uniform county-wide tax. 1/ At the present time the high schools in the county are supported by a uniform county high school tax, but district administration and local jealousy tend to impede measures dictated by considerations of increased efficiency or improved standards. Moreover, while present attendance at the several high schools is drawn from all districts within the county, only property within the district maintaining the respective high schools is subject to levies for present debt or new issues for the purpose of providing school plant and facilities. In effect, while operating or budgetary costs of high schools are distributed over the entire county, the provision of present and additional building requirements falls as a burden exclusively on the districts maintaining high schools, while outlying districts escape both the responsibility and the tax burden. The present need for additional high school plant, particularly at Malta, presents a strong argument for early establishment of a county high school system as provided in the law.

As for elementary schools, several districts have already been or will soon be relieved of the necessity of maintaining any

1/ See accompanying Study 18-b with reference to Chap. 80, Compiled Laws of Montana, Rural School Districts, S. 1040-1048.

school whatever, as families migrate from the districts. Many former school attendance areas have already lost much of their earlier significance. Depleted both in population and tax resources, they are out of proper relation to the school situation in the county as a whole. In other rural districts, tax value has shrunk to the point where a school can no longer be maintained without confiscatory rates. In still other districts, particularly along the Milk River, where the towns are located, the influx of people from the dry-land areas as a result of depression, drought, and resettlement has overcrowded school plants and increased the financial burden on the people and property in those districts. In many cases, recent migrants to these districts are receiving the benefits of the district schools while their property, remaining in the dry-land district from which they came and which no longer supports a school, virtually escapes taxation for school support other than the county 6-mill levy.

The need for greater equalization in school support is shown most clearly in the unequal distribution among districts of taxable valuation, and disproportion in local tax rates. As shown earlier in this study, approximately two-thirds of all school revenues on the average are raised by local district taxes. The amount of its taxable valuation per classroom required, therefore, virtually represents the ability of each district to support its schools. All school districts have been ranked, in Appendix Table XXIX, according to their taxable valuation per classroom maintained in 1935. These figures are shown in column 3. It will be noted that the taxable value per classroom ranges from $17,000 in fairly uniform gradations to $170,000. Four districts out of 37 2/ had less than $20,000 valuation per classroom; ten had more than $20,000 and less than $30,000; four had more than $30,000 and less than $40,000; five had more than $40,000 and less than $50,000; seven had more than $50,000 and less than $60,000; and the remaining seven districts had from $60,000 to $170,000 each per classroom maintained. These data are summarized here in Table 10. The town districts indicated by (*) in Appendix Table XXIX, where graded schools are provided, have been omitted from Table 10 because of their uniformly high costs in comparison with rural schools, due largely to the superior standard of services provided.

2/ Town districts omitted.

Table 10. Summary, Relation of Taxable Valuation Per Classroom Unit Maintained to Average Tax Rate 1931-1935 a/

Taxable Valuation Per Classroom Unit	Number of Districts	Average Taxable Valuation Per Classroom	Five-year Average Tax Rates 1931-'35	Group Averages
Under $20,000	4	17,662	15.3)	under
$20 - $29,999	10	24,860	15.3)	$30,000
30 - 39,999	4	34,410	12.3)	14.5 mills
40 - 49,999	5	44,038	13.4)	
50 - 59,999	7	55,703	10.9)	
60 - 69,999	1	62,496	8.8)	over
70 - 79,999	3	74,212	11.4) b/	$30,000
80 - 89,999	1	80,850	8.3)	9.4 mills
90 - 99,999	1	98,384	6.4)	
Over 100,000	1	121,192	7.0)	

a/ Town districts omitted.

b/ The $70 - $79,999 group includes District 32 which paid off bonded debt of $1,800 in 1935 from tax levied that year. The rate was 26.86 mills. The average rate in 1935 of the other two districts was 5.3 mills.

The disproportion in taxable resources is necessarily reflected in the tax rates. Although county and State apportionment funds bear a portion of the load, and limited equalization funds have been provided by the State for distressed districts, there remains a definite tendency for tax rates to vary in inverse ratio with the valuation per classroom. Appendix Table V, discussed in an earlier section of this report, shows the extreme variation in local school tax rates from 1931 through 1935. The five-year average rate for each district is a more dependable index than the rate of any single year. The five-year average rate ranged from 6.4 mills to 42.7 mills in the 44 districts which make up the county. In 12 districts, the five-year average rate was less than 10 mills; in 11 districts, 10 to 15 mills; in 13 districts, 15 to 20 mills; and in the remaining 5 districts, varied from 21 to 43 mills. These averages have been transcribed to Appendix Table XXIX to show the relationship between tax rate and taxable valuation in the various districts. A very definite inverse correlation will be observed between the taxable valuation per classroom maintained, and five-year average tax rates. In only two of the 23 districts with less than $30,000 valuation per classroom (See Appendix Table XVIX) were the five-year average rates

less than 10 mills, while in but four of the 14 districts having over $50,000 per classroom (districts including town schools omitted) were the five-year average rates over 10 mills. The average tax rate of all districts having less than $50,000 taxable valuation per classroom was 14.5 mills, while that of all districts with taxable valuation per classroom in excess of that amount was only 9.4 mills.

Equalization of the school tax burden, if unaccompanied by increased efficiency in the provision of schools, would be of financial benefit only to those present districts currently levying school taxes at higher than average rates. Increased efficiency may be secured either by cost reductions or by improving the standards of services provided at no increase in costs. In either case the basic problem in Phillips County is the inefficient low-enrollment one-room school.

Data previously presented (Appendix Table XVIII and text Table 7) show that of 72 one-teacher schools operating in the county during the school year ended June 30, 1935, eleven schools had five pupils or less, 32 had eight pupils or less, and 46 had ten pupils or less. Yet operating costs per school in these schools were not appreciably lower than costs in the larger-enrollment schools. Costs per pupil, on the other hand, averaged $163.08 in schools of 5 pupils or less, and $96.64 in schools of 6 to 10 pupils, as compared with $55.49 in schools with 16 to 20 pupils, while in schools with 21 to 25 pupils the per capita cost was only $47.62 or less than one-third the corresponding costs in schools of 5 pupils or less. The latter figure almost exactly equals the annual per pupil cost in the graded school systems of Malta and Dodson (See Table 8, page 25), where the numbers of pupils per teacher during the same year were 32 and 40, respectively. These data would indicate that both the greatest need and the most likely opportunity for increased efficiency and economy in the school system is found in the many rural schools, particularly those with enrollment of 15 pupils or less.

B. Need for Continuation of Acquisition Program

The land acquisition program should be continued, specifically directed toward the buying out of the more isolated rural families. While the major hope for reductions in governmental costs lies in reorganization of local units, all possible and reasonable efforts should be extended to rationalize the distribution of rural population with relation to schools, roads, and communities. Where winters are as severe as in Phillips County, and in view of the cost of all-weather roads, there appears no way in which many of the more isolated families could be provided with schools and other services at reasonable cost. In many instances, there is no logical reason why such isolated settlement should continue if equal or superior

opportunities can be offered at reasonable cost. The land on which these families reside is no better, and often poorer, than other available land closer to the communities, where social opportunities are greater. Their present residence is apparently largely due to inertia.

In the conduct of the acquisition program to date 446 tracts out of 764, or 58 percent, were non-resident owned. It was probably inevitable that non-resident owners should be disproportionately represented in the acceptance of options, since their land holdings represented only investments, often of very questionable value and they were willing and eager to sell in most instances. The resident families, on the other hand, had more at stake than an investment in poor land. Whatever its limitations, the farm on which an impoverished farm family lives provides a home, and a residence in the community which entitled the family to community benefits, including schools and relief. This being the case, resident families would be reluctant to option their land until they saw a definite opportunity to take root in some other locality, either independently or with the help of the Resettlement Administration. It will be remembered in this connection that the program of land acquisition generally preceded definite plans for resettlement. In view of these considerations, recommendation for the expansion of the land acquisition program directed specifically toward the removal of present scattered families should be predicated upon definite plans for suitable resettlement opportunities to be immediately available to the families concerned, with opportunity of seeing and selecting the farm on which they will be resettled before being expected to sell the farm on which they now reside.

C. Compensation to Local Governments

Federal compensation for local tax losses appears a necessary adjunct to the land acquisition program. As the project stands at the present stage of acquisition, the net effects upon local governmental finance are generally adverse. Because of the scattered pattern of acquisition, and high representation of non-resident owners among vendors, local governmental costs cannot as yet be materially reduced as a result of the program. At the same time, local revenue sources will be substantially depleted in many instances. It will be recalled from Appendix Table XXI that in 14 school districts taxable valuation will be reduced from 10 to 50 percent by Federal land purchases. In substantially the same group of districts, the nine-year average tax collections from lands being purchased ranged from 7 to 25 percent of total district revenues from all sources in 1935, and from 11 to 65 percent of general tax revenues. (See Appendix Table XXIV.)

In all, it is estimated that school district local tax revenues will be reduced by $5,414.55, and receipts from the general school fund another $1,966.36, or a total annual reduction of $7,380.91 (See Appendix Table XXIII) in school revenue. While estimated reductions in school costs will amount approximately to $5,200 annually, it is to be noted that the seven districts in which schools can readily be closed (See Appendix Table XXVIII) include only one (District 24) of the 14 districts which will suffer relatively heavy losses in tax revenue through Federal purchase of land.

As an immediate result of the program, school district receipts from back taxes will amount to about $21,000, supplemented by $7,800 from collections for the county 6-mill general school tax. The latter receipts are distributed on the basis of the annual school census. It has already been pointed out that a large part of these back taxes had already been paid at the time data for this report were secured. Approximately $8,461 of district taxes and $3,052 of county general school fund taxes were estimated to be still outstanding against lands being purchased on January 1, 1936.3/ Distribution of these funds to the various districts and the county will in most cases more than equal a fair share of debt which might reasonably be attributed to the land being purchased. It would appear, therefore, that insofar as immediate problems of indebtedness are concerned they will generally be relieved rather than aggravated. In the long run, however, ability to service indebtedness would tend to be somewhat impaired in those districts where annual tax revenues will be significantly diminished without commensurate reductions in operating costs.

If Federal legislation should be enacted to permit some form of compensation to local governments, particularly for the support of schools, it is imperative that the compensation plan adopted promote rather than impede desirable reorganization. It is obvious that Federal compensation made directly to existing local districts would tend to endow and perpetuate the existing organization, in spite of present maladjustment and further changes in requirements which are certain to be brought about by the Federal program of land conservation and resettlement. The adoption of the county unit school system would be facilitated by compensatien to the State, with amounts specified for each county, or direct to the county, for ultimate distribution as the county school board would direct in the best interests of the school children and taxpayers of the entire county.

3/ This date was used for the purpose of making delinquent tax data comparable with that secured for indebtedness.

In the case of grazing areas, such as that being developed in Phillips County and the two adjoining counties, to be publicly administered and controlled, the annual public income provided by collection of grazing fees provides the most suitable source, and perhaps the most logical basis for measurement, of annual contributions in support of local government. Certainly the annual payments on account of tax exemption of lands purchased should not be permitted to exceed, over any long period of time, a reasonable portion of the gross land income. The Taylor Grazing Act, which provides for the creation, out of public domain, of grazing districts in all other essential respects similar to those being developed in the Milk River area, provides for a contribution of 50 percent of gross revenues to local government for the support of schools. It is somewhat difficult to determine what portion of gross grazing revenues might equitably be returned to local governments, since the revenue itself will depend upon the rate of grazing fee charged, the carrying capacity of the land from year to year, and the extent of acreage which will ultimately come under the administration of the public or the grazing associations. Similarly, the portion which might be required by local governments will vary not only with the amounts available, but with the final net effects upon costs and revenues in relation to future service requirements in the county. These, of course, cannot as yet be determined. However, since the grazing projects to which a compensation plan would apply are found in the same general region, and often in the same political jurisdictions, as lands administered under the Taylor Grazing Act, considerations of political expediency would seem to favor a compensation plan conforming in all essential respects to the revenue-sharing provisions of the Taylor Act.

Under a revenue-sharing plan, however, receipts to be shared would necessarily await development and rehabilitation of the range. Since much of this land in the Milk River project has been cropped, or severely depleted by drought and over-grazing, it will likely be ten or twenty years before much of this land reaches what might be considered maximum production. Local revenue needs, on the other hand, will be greatest in the immediate future, and likely to diminish with advancement of the resettlement program and local governmental reorganization. In view of these facts, a more satisfactory plan would appear to be one based upon valuation and millage rates to become immediately productive of revenue. In view of the facts that any plan of compensation adopted by Congress must of necessity apply to many various conditions, great diversity in assessment ratio, and deviation in tax rates, it appears essential that the basis of valuation and tax rate be established by the Federal government, and be uniform over all lands affected.

Actual value, as determined by appraisal for purposes of Federal purchase, provides the logical valuation basis. The valuation figure used and any subsequent modifications therein should be

determined by the Federal administrative agency having jurisdiction. Local assessment of public property has proved by experience to be exploitative and discriminatory. As to the uniform flat rate to be applied, it must be obvious that a rate considerably below current local rates should be adopted. The more important reasons are: First, local rates are applied in practice to valuation figures usually considerably less than true value. As previously shown in this study, taxable values in Phillips County represent about 48 percent of true value on lands acquired. Secondly, local rates generally contemplate considerable delinquency in collections, which will not be the case in connection with Federal payments. Thirdly, through the resettlement program, and reorganization thereby facilitated, local costs will in most areas of acquisition be substantially reduced as the projects approach ultimate completion. Fourthly, included in the valuation basis to which the adopted rate will be applied will be varying amounts of public domain lands which have not previously been drawn upon for support of local government.

An authoritative study of farm taxes 4/ reveals that effective rates of taxation throughout the country generally range from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of true value, with surprisingly little deviation outside of this range. In 5 Montana counties, including Phillips and Valley, the average rate per $100 of value was found to be $1.53. In 10 Montana counties the average rate was $1.25, while the average for the United States was $1.19 per $100 of value. Conceding the accuracy of these estimates and considering the four points enumerated above, 5 mills, or one-half of one percent of actual value would appear to constitute a reasonable rate.

As applied to Phillips County, the following results are obtained for comparison with estimated gross grazing receipts and past annual average tax collections. Approximately 315,000 acres of land purchased at an average cost of $2.37 per acre yield a gross cost or value figure of $746,280. Five mills, or one-half of one percent, would yield an annual revenue to local government of $3,731.40. In addition, there are in the county approximately 850,000 acres of public domain, which might be appraised for purposes of rough estimation at $1.00 per acre, or a total value of $850,000. One-half of one percent on this valuation would yield $4,250 annually, which, with the $3,731.40 on lands purchased, would provide a contribution to Phillips County of $7,931.40 annually.

4/ "Taxes on Farm Property in the United States." 15th Census of the United States - 1930 census of Agriculture.

Study #18-b (to this report) consists of a detailed analysis of probable future gross grazing revenues from purchased and public domain lands in Phillips County. The estimates derived represent potential annual returns, assuming that the land is restored to its normal productive capacity. Gross annual grazing revenue at the most likely rate of grazing fee used in the calculations are estimated at $20,500 from purchased and public domain lands combined. The $7,931 calculated as the probable contribution on the basis of actual value and 5-mill rate approximates 40 percent of the gross revenue estimate. Since a considerable period of range protection and rehabilitation must elapse before normal grazing returns can be expected, the valuation and rate method proposed would likely be more favorable to local government than the 50 percent sharing provision over a long period of years, the period of adjustment and reorganization during which aid will be most needed.

SUMMARY

1. The more pressing public finance problems in Phillips County must be attributed to the sparse distribution of rural population and to the low and declining productive and taxable value of properties which are included in the tax base.

2. Because numerous rural schools are required for small enrollment groups, school costs are particularly burdensome. Approximately one-half of all governmental costs in the county are incurred for schools. The county is divided into 44 school districts, 37 of which maintain only rural schools.

3. Of the 72 rural one-room schools operated in the school year ended June 30, 1935, 46 had an enrollment of 10 pupils or less; 11 schools had 5 pupils or less. Annual costs per pupil enrolled were $163.08 in schools of 5 pupils or less, and $96.64 in schools with 6 to 10 pupils. In schools with 16 to 20 pupils annual costs were only $55.49 per child enrolled. These facts indicate that approximately one-half of the present costs of Phillips County rural schools are inefficiency costs, the penalty of scattered settlement. In other words, if the population pattern with relation to schools was such that no school would be required for less than 16 pupils within walking distance, or at least requiring no systematic transportation at public expense, services of the same general standards could be provided for little more than half the present cost, or the same expenditure would provide superior schools.

4. Twenty districts in 1935 had a <u>total</u> taxable valuation of less than $60,000 each; eleven of these had a taxable valuation of less than $50,000. With the present distribution of State and county aid to schools, $60,000 represents the practical minimum of tax base required to support one classroom unit with a 10-mill local levy. Yet, of the 20 districts having less than this amount, 8 districts maintain more than one school each. 30 districts out of 37 have less than $60,000 taxable valuation, and 14 districts have less than $30,000 valuation <u>per classroom actually maintained</u>.

5. The county average consolidated tax rate in Phillips County has ranged from 70 to 88 mills during the five-year period 1930-34. Considering the ratio of assessed to true value, this represents a levy of from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ percent on true value. In addition to county-wide levies of 6 and 10 mills levied for general schools and high schools respectively, school district special levies have ranged as high as 50 mills. The five-year average special district levy from 1931 through 1935 exceeded 10 mills in 32 of the 44 districts, and exceeded 15 mills in 18 districts.

6. Total taxes delinquent have been approximately $500,000 at the close of each of the past 10 fiscal years. Approximately 30 percent of each annual levy since 1929 has been returned delinquent. Practically all delinquent taxes are real estate taxes -- approximately 50 percent have been delinquent each year from 1930 to 1934.

7. There is no serious debt situation bearing upon the land acquisition project. The county is almost free of debt. No district is in default, although perhaps two districts are faced with the probable alternative of refunding or defaulting. The distribution, according to levies, of approximately $95,000 of back taxes on lands acquired will more than offset the share of debt attributable on a valuation basis to lands purchased in all except a few minor instances. County receipts from this source are more than double the attributable debt, while only $873 of district debt, in 6 districts, could be considered an obligation on lands purchased, over and above delinquent taxes. This difference appears too trifling to serve as a basis for any debt compensation plan.

8. Improvement of the entire complex of public finance problems in the county requires the pursuit of several related lines of action. The Federal program brings to a head a long-existing need for reorganization of school districts in the county. All existing districts should be consolidated into a county-unit system as expeditiously as possible in order to equalize school burdens throughout the tax base. Less than half of the districts now enjoy the exclusive right to tax utilities for schools. Recent population changes have destroyed the former significance of many districts, creating tax refuges in some instances and increasing burdens in others. Establishment of the county-unit system would eliminate these discrepancies. Centralization of administrative responsibility for schools in a county board would facilitate discontinuance of small-enrollment, inefficient schools, thereby promoting more efficient use of State and county apportionment funds, and Federal compensation funds, as outlined below.

9. A second important line of action is the relocation of many present isolated farm families to create a more rational population distribution relative to community and public services. Scattered settlement, while promoted by dry-land crop farming, creates positive impediments to fencing, livestock movement, and inefficient range control. With the contemplated general shift from dry-farming to grazing in the area, there should appear a tendency in the direction of a more rational population distribution. To date, only a beginning in this direction has been made. Too few resident families have been resettled (or are designated for resettlement) to change materially requirements for schools or

roads. From the standpoints of both range administration and local public costs, the current land acquisition program should be considerably expanded. To achieve the desired objectives, further acquisition should be specifically directed toward the securing of options on tracts now owned and occupied by resident families whose present location requires the maintenance of small-enrollment, inefficient schools.

10. Considering the full effects of the land acquisition and resettlement programs, in their present stages, upon local fiscal arrangements, some Federal compensation to local governments for tax losses probably should be provided, at least for an interim period. The purchase (and tax exemption) of 301,500 acres of land for conservation and development represents a loss of $375,628 in local taxable valuation. While this is but 7.5 percent of the county tax base, in 14 school districts the reductions will range from 10 to 50 percent. Average taxes actually collected over the 9-year period 1926-34 from lands purchased amounted to $24,500 annually. Approximately $5,400 of these annual collections were school district taxes. In substantially the same 14 districts mentioned above, the average annual tax revenues from lands purchased range from 10 to 65 percent of the 1935 district tax revenues, and as high as 25 percent of total district revenues including State and county apportionment funds. Annual school costs can be reduced approximately $5,000 by closing 8 schools in 7 districts. However, these include only one of the 14 districts suffering heaviest revenue losses.

School districts will receive approximately $9,400 in taxes still delinquent on January 1, 1936, against lands being purchased, including estimated distributive shares of county school fund taxes. These collections represent somewhat less than two years' normal annual revenues from lands purchased, and while they will more than offset the $7,000 of school district debt attributable on a valuation basis to lands purchased, they leave no additional margin of benefit to compensate for loss of annual revenues needed for continuing operations.

Any compensation paid by the Federal government on account of tax exempt lands should not be permitted to exceed a reasonable portion of normal annual grazing income derived from the lands in question, once they reach full development. As a permanent policy, the compensation plan might well conform to the general revenue sharing provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act. However, considering that much of the land in question will not become productive of revenue for several years, and that the needs of local government will be highest during the immediate transition period, a more suitable plan would be one which would provide an immediate source of moderate revenue. The determination of annual payments to counties

by applying a uniform flat millage rate to the appraisal value of lands purchased (perhaps at purchase price), offers such a plan. The rate should be considerably lower than current effective tax rates (figured on true value), since there would be no delinquency in these payments, and other local benefits are derived from the program. If public domain lands are included, five mills would appear to be a reasonable rate.

Under no circumstances should compensation be made direct to existing units of local government. All compensation funds should be paid to the State, perhaps with amounts earmarked for the counties in which the land is situated, but without restriction as to the basis of distribution, either among minor jurisdictions, or among functions such as school, road, or general county funds. Payment direct to existing minor units or earmarking of funds for them would tend to endow and perpetuate the inefficient and uneconomic local units whose elimination would be more than ever indicated as the Federal program is advanced. Likewise, restrictions either as to governmental units or functions would complicate the problem of integrating these funds with the widely variant State-aid provisions existing in the different States.

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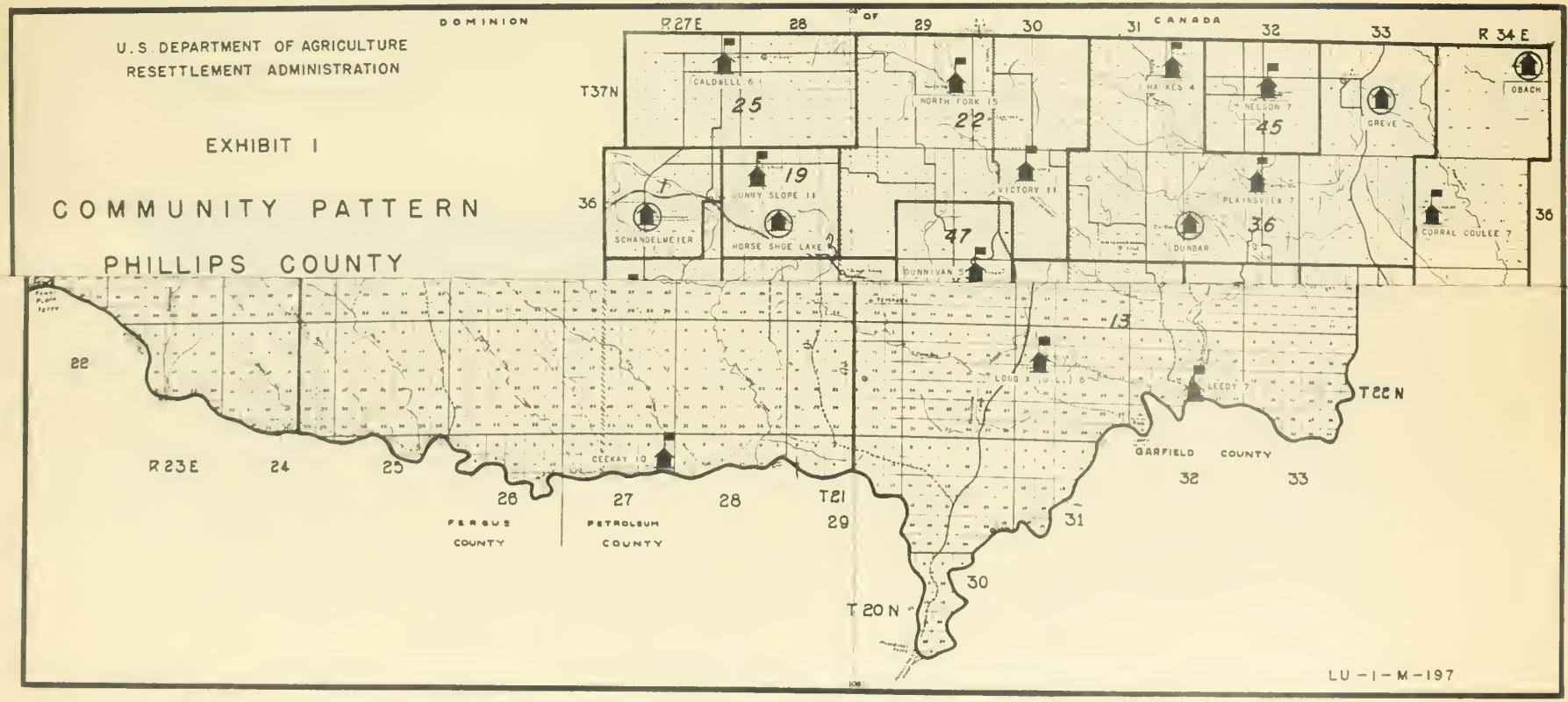

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION
EXHIBIT I
COMMUNITY PATTERN
PHILLIPS COUNTY
DOMINION OF CANADA
R 27 E
R 34 E
T 37 N
T 22 N
T 21
T 20 N
R 23 E
CALDWELL 6
NORTH FORK 15
HAKES 4
NELSON 7
GREVE
OBACH
SUNNY SLOPE 11
VICTORY 11
PLAINSVIEW 7
CORRAL COULEE 7
SCHANDELMEIER
HORSE SHOE LAKE
DUNBAR
LONG X (U.L.) 6
LEEDY 7
CEEKAY 10
FERGUS COUNTY
PETROLEUM COUNTY
GARFIELD COUNTY
LU-I-M-197

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

EXHIBIT I

COMMUNITY PATTERN

PHILLIPS COUNTY

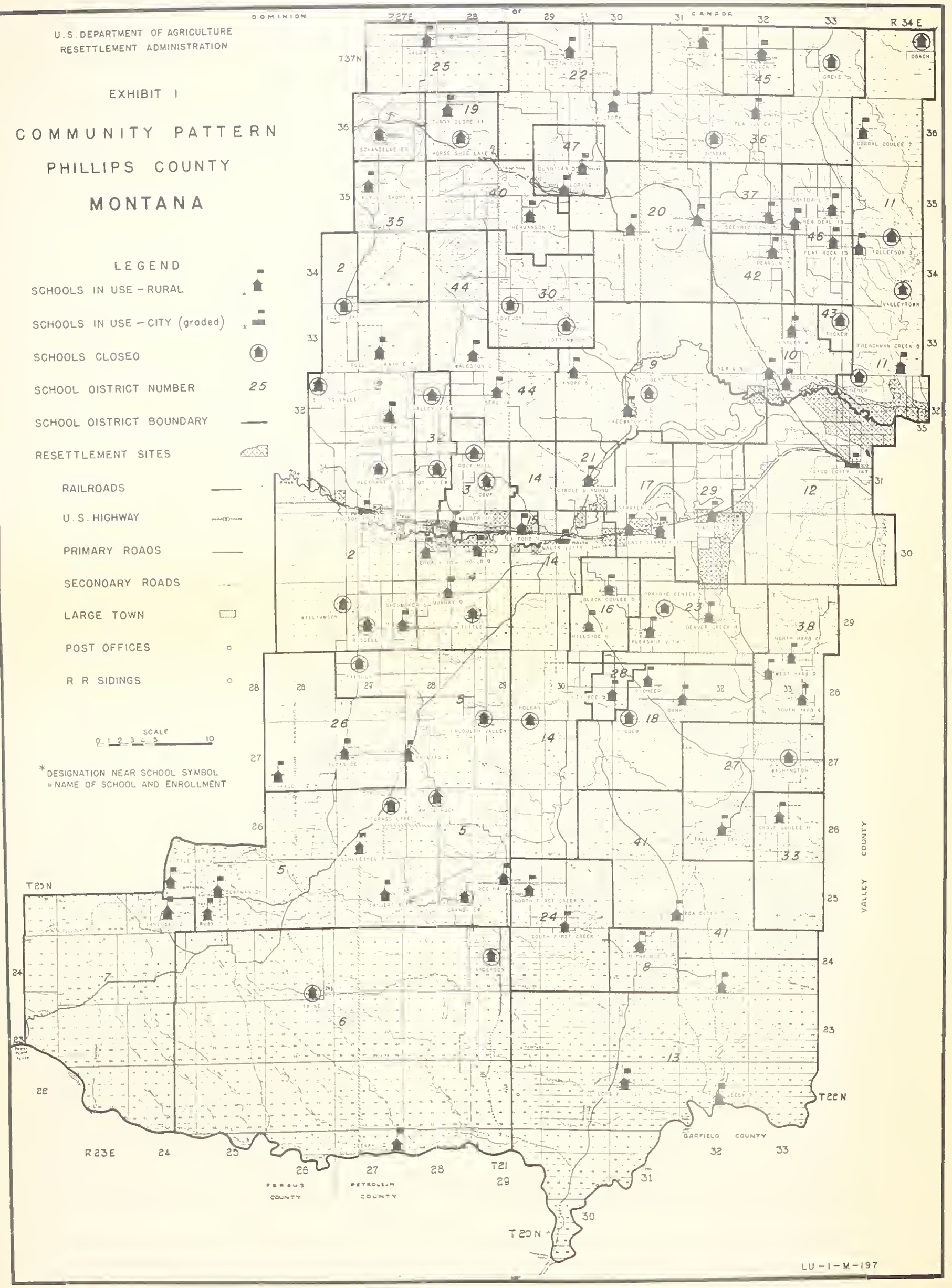
MONTANA

LEGEND

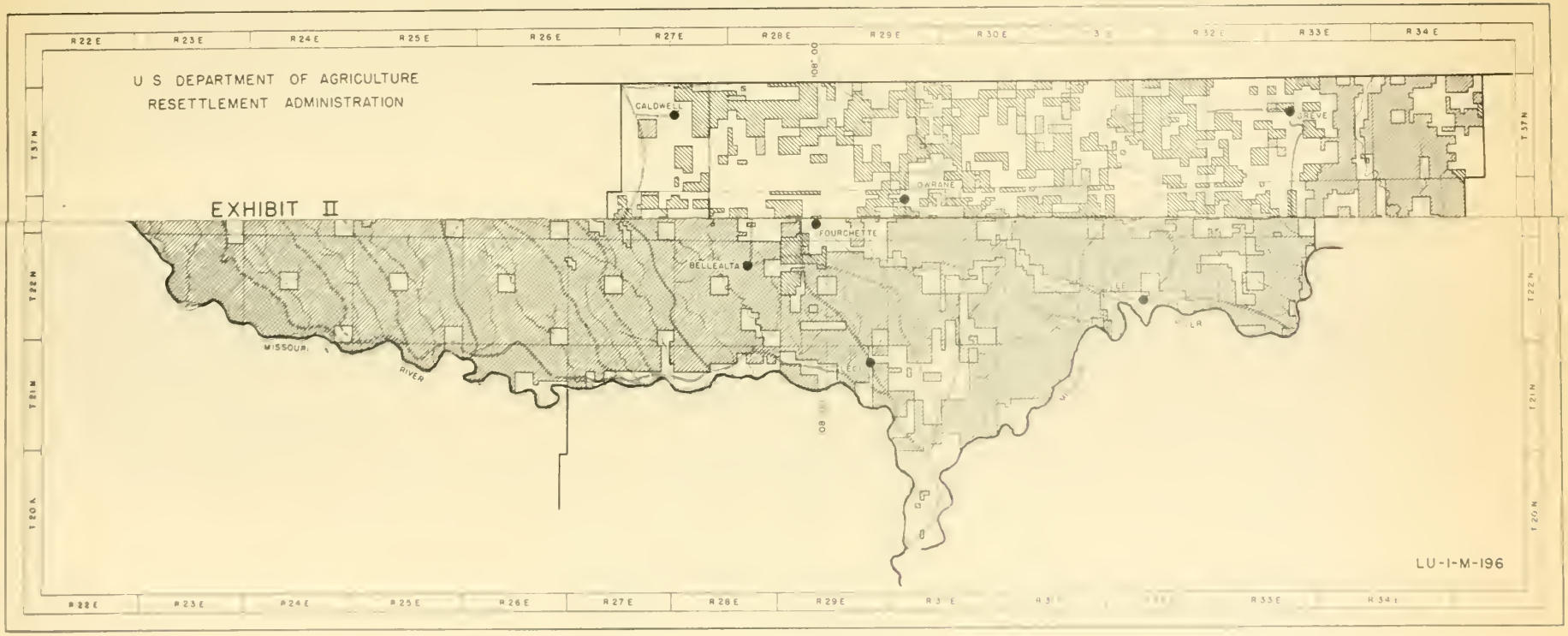
- SCHOOLS IN USE – RURAL
- SCHOOLS IN USE – CITY (graded)
- SCHOOLS CLOSED
- SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 25
- SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- RESETTLEMENT SITES
- RAILROADS
- U.S. HIGHWAY
- PRIMARY ROADS
- SECONDARY ROADS
- LARGE TOWN
- POST OFFICES
- R R SIDINGS

SCALE
0 1 2 3 4 5 10

*DESIGNATION NEAR SCHOOL SYMBOL
= NAME OF SCHOOL AND ENROLLMENT



LU-I-M-197


U S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION
EXHIBIT II
CALDWELL
OWANE
FOURCHETTE
BELLEALTA
MISSOURI
RIVER
LU-I-M-196

U S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

EXHIBIT II

FEDERAL LAND
IN
PHILLIPS COUNTY

MONTANA

LEGEND

PUBLIC DOMAIN

LAND ACQUIRED BY RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

RESETTLEMENT SITES

PRIMARY ROADS

SECONDARY ROADS

SCALE
0 1 2 3 4 5 10

CALDWELL
LOWRANE
GREVE
TROT
JOSEPHO
LORING
ORDELL
ROLEFIELD
WHITEWATER STA.
WHITEWATER
WALSH
VALLEYTOWN
LOVEJOY
LAST LAKE
GARRISON
TATTNALL
LATHAM
WALESTON
ASHFIELD
SACO
WOOLRIDGE
DODSON
WAGNER
MALTA
STRATER
FORT BELKNAP INDIAN RES
BROOKSIDE
PHILLIPS
CONTENT
LONESOME
48° 00
JEFFERSON
ZORTMAN
NAT'L FOREST
LANDUSKY
REGINA
MIDALE
FIRST CREEK
SUN PRAIRIE
TELEGRAPH CREEK
TRINE
FOURCHETTE
BELLEALTA
LEEDS
MISSOURI RIVER
108° 00

LU-1-M-196

A P P E N D I C E S

APPENDIX A

ESTIMATED LEASE VALUES OF LAND TO BE ADMINISTERED BY GRAZING DISTRICTS IN PHILLIPS COUNTY, AND COMPARISON WITH ANNUAL AVERAGE TAX RETURNS, 1930-1934

The annual lease value of range land depends upon its capacity to carry livestock, and the economic returns from the range livestock business, as determined by livestock prices and costs of production. Information along these lines is available as a result of studies made by the Montana Experiment Station. 1/ Estimation of the lease values of the lands under consideration may be approximated by the reasonable application of measurements already determined.

Range lands in Montana are classified into five numerical grades, according to carrying capacity for livestock, as determined by normal grass productivity. 2/ The unit of measurement of forage resources is the "forage acre", which, as defined by the Forest Service, is "an acre of land covered by a stand of forage of maximum density and palatibility." Obviously, this maximum density and palatibility may never exist but it serves as an index for measurement of actual forage conditions. For eastern Montana range it has been estimated 3/ that one forage acre is required to maintain one cow one month.

Lease values per head and per acre of land of different grades have been derived by the Montana Experiment Station from an analysis

1/ For treatment of this subject see: Lease Values of Montana Range Lands, by L. H. Saunderson and P. G. Bolster. Montana State College, Agricultural Experiment Station, Bozeman, Montana. Mimeographed release about 1935.

2/ Normal grass productivity, as used in this connection, is a theoretical function of soil, climate, and topographical features. It does not take account of present range conditions resulting from cropping, over-grazing and drought. It represents potential rather than actual carrying capacity. This is important to the discussion at hand.

3/ Supra.

of ranch organization, production costs, and selling prices of beef, lambs, and wool during the period of 1928 to 1932, supplemented by data on range sheep and cattle prices and production costs over the 40-year period from 1890 to 1930.

Conclusions of this study indicate that the annual lease value per animal unit 4/ is $3.53 for a 10-month grazing period, $3.17 for 9 months and $2.86 for 8 months. The 8-month period is selected as the basis for estimation in the present study since it places the most conservative annual value on the land, and represents about the maximum period during which livestock may be kept on range in this area in a normal season. Since a cow requires one forage acre per month, this fee for 8 months represents a charge for 8 forage acres, or 35.75 cents per forage acre.

Opinion has been variously expressed that the lease value estimates derived by Montana Experiment Station are too high, particularly in view of the present condition of the range in this area. It may be noted in passing that a 25 percent allowance has already been made by figuring one forage acre per cow per month, since the generally accepted basis is .8 forage acres per cow. Two alternative rates have been suggested, at least for the immediate future. The first, which we might call alternative A, would set the price at 20¢ per forage acre. This would represent an annual charge (for 8 months grazing) of $1.60 per head. The second designated alternative, B, would set the price at $1.00 per head for 8 months, which would amount to 12½¢ per forage acre.

4/ One mature cow or steer, or 5 sheep.

The carrying capacity of the five grades of range land, together with their annual lease value per acre at the various rates discussed, is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Carrying capacity and annual lease value per acre, at varying rates per head and per forage acre, of Montana range lands

Grade of range land	Acres per cow for 8 mo. season	Forage acre factor a/	Annual lease value per acre: Mont. Exper. station study	Alterna-tive A	Alterna-tive B
1	18	.45	.16	.09	.05
2	26	.31	.11	.06	.04
3	34	.23	.08	.04	.03
4	47	.17	.06	.03	.02
5	80	.10	.036	.02	.01
Cost per head:			2.86	1.60	1.00
per forage acre	-	-	.36	.20	.125

a/ Ratio: Forage acre per surface acre.

The 314,886 acres purchased for grazing use in Phillips County are classified 5/ and the estimated annual lease returns shown in comparison with annual average tax returns in Table XXX. These estimates indicate that the 314,886 acres purchased contain approximately 93,400 forage acres, for which the gross lease value at 36 cents per forage acre ($2.86 per head) would be $33,611, at 20 cents per forage acre ($1.60 per head) $18,675; and at 12.5 cents per forage acre ($1.00 per head) $11,671. These figures may be compared with the annual average tax collections of $24,5[illegible].21, shown in the last column of Table XXX.

5/ This classification is based upon the reconnaisance survey of Phillips County. Each tract was given the classification, (i.e., 3rd class farming, 2nd class grazing, etc.) which appeared on the map to predominate in that tract. The carrying capacity of first and second grade farming land (as shown on the map) was assumed to equal that of first grade grazing land, and that of third and fourth (3 F and 4 F) grade farming equal to that of second grade grazing land.

In addition to the purchased lands, there are in Phillips County 848,960 acres of public domain, which presumably will be included in the grazing districts and subject to whatever provisions for revenue sharing applied to the lands purchased. The public domain lands are estimated to contain 72,006 forage acres, 6/ which would indicate a very poor 5th grade grazing land on the average. At the three rates quoted above, the lease returns on public domain land would be $25,922.16, $14,401.20, or $8,928.74, respectively. Added to the figures for lands purchased, gross lease returns are estimated as follows, according to the rate of grazing fee:

Table 2. Estimated gross lease returns of public domain and acquired lands, at various rates per forage acre

	ESTIMATED GROSS LEASE RETURNS a/			Nine year average tax returns on purchased lands
	@ 36¢ per Forage acre	@ 20¢ per Forage acre	@ 12.5¢ per Forage acre	
Purchased land	33,611.29	18,672.94	11,670.59	24,558.21
Public domain	25,922.16	14,401.20	8,928.74	--
Total	59,533.45	33,074.14	20,599.33	24,558.21
Less 25% for Administration	44,650.09	24,805.61	15,449.50	24,558.21

a/ These estimates represent potential yield, assuming restoration of the range to its normal productive capacity.

In comparing prospective lease returns with annual average tax collections, it should not be forgotten that taxes in the area have generally exceeded reasonable concepts of ability to pay. Figures for

6/ Estimates secured from project office at Malta. They were derived by grazing experts, on approximately the same basis as that used in classifying purchased land. (See Footnote 5, Supra)

collections do not represent only the untroubled collection of taxes paid as due, but include a considerable amount of taxes which went delinquent, and were subsequently paid by redemption, by sale of tax certificates, and in some cases, by sale of tax deed land. While it cannot be statistically shown, it is fairly certain that much tax payment has been possible only at the sacrifice of living standards. It should also be remembered that while local governmental costs will not be greatly reduced in the present stage of the program, further acquisition for the purpose of resettling scattered families, together with reorganization of the local school system, can reasonably be expected to reduce materially local governmental costs.

APPENDIX B

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APPENDIX B

Table I. Taxable valuation of Phillips County by classes of property, 1925 to 1934, inclusive a/

Year of assessment	Real Estate	Personal	Railroad	Other Utility & Mines	Total
1925	5,193,215	189,286	1,194,760	17,982.00	6,595,243
1926	4,809,455	176,391	1,163,030	25,331.00	6,174,207
1927	4,262,857	802,371	1,163,009	56,703.00	6,284,940
1928	4,240,283	844,281	1,173,778	55,193.00	6,313,485
1929	4,406,567	930,569	1,420,538	55,641.00	6,813,315
1930	4,166,574	939,376	1,585,369	86,774.00	6,776,093
1931	3,452,856	773,089	1,564,931	129,529.00	5,920,205
1932	2,632,253	724,594	1,438,163	158,642.00	4,953,652
1933	2,607,901	625,402	1,396,012	139,438.00	4,768,803
1934	2,624,993	690,191	1,329,276	158,777.00	4,803,237
Composition (1925 by types	78.7%	2.9%	18.1%	0.3%	100%
(1934	54.7%	14.4%	27.7%	3.2%	100%
Index 1934/25	50.5%	364.6%	111.3%	883.0%	72.8%

a/ Source: report of County Clerk, June 30 of succeeding year.

Table II. Assessed and taxable valuations of school districts in Phillips County, by classes of property, in 1935. a/

District	Full and True Valuation			Taxable Valuation		
	Real Estate and personal	Railroads and other utilities	Total	Real Estate and personal	Railroads and other utilities	Total
#1	115,067	99,966	215,033	33,279	39,987	73,266
2	831,830	484,035	1,315,865	249,018	192,891	441,909
3	196,556	129,372	325,928	57,088	51,504	108,592
4	345,135	189,887	535,022	102,257	75,954	178,211
5	820,175	-	820,175	353,575	-	353,575
6	398,850	-	398,850	121,192	-	121,192
7	189,633	-	189,633	58,952	-	58,952
8	77,186	-	77,186	23,792	-	23,792
9	260,726	-	260,726	78,461	-	78,461
10	408,661	178,734	587,395	119,090	70,869	189,959
11	363,920	-	363,920	110,973	-	110,973
12	706,672	820,536	1,527,208	208,742	349,661	558,403
13	257,631	-	257,631	77,763	-	77,763
14	1,691,444	398,916	2,090,360	491,484	161,835	653,319
15	33,825	4,515	38,340	11,466	46,130	57,596
16	142,465	-	142,465	42,325	-	42,325
17	198,634	257,447	456,081	58,721	102,979	161,700
18	190,556	-	190,556	56,532		56,532
19	106,443	114,059	220,502	32,195	45,623	77,818
20	336,557	270,272	606,829	100,156	108,109	208,265
21	81,290	-	81,290	25,873	-	25,873
22	292,099	-	292,099	85,898	-	85,898
23	195,675	-	195,675	58,593	-	58,593
24	152,131	-	152,131	45,306	-	45,306
25	195,524	-	195,524	58,407	-	58,407
26	151,545	-	151,545	44,266	-	44,266
27	187,962	-	187,962	59,266	-	59,266
28	57,304	-	57,304	17,317	-	17,317
29	196,770	278,071	474,841	58,824	111,229	170,053
30	178,890	-	178,890	52,951	-	52,951
32	142,104	70,315	212,419	43,426	28,126	71,552
33	80,454	-	80,454	20,390	-	20,390
35	120,948	12,920	133,868	36,821	5,168	41,989
36	380,363	-	380,363	114,417	-	114,417
37	115,376	-	115,376	34,485	-	34,485
38	177,857	-	177,857	51,781	-	51,781
40	227,620	79,725	307,345	66,794	31,890	98,684
41	98,070	-	98,070	30,411	-	30,411
42	123,473	64,732	188,205	36,603	25,893	62,496
43	25,250	-	25,250	8,340	-	8,340
44	222,090	-	222,090	67,026	-	67,026
45	135,339	-	135,339	43,213	-	43,213
46	181,278	-	181,278	51,683	-	51,683
47	140,497	93,546	234,043	39,465	37,418	76,883
	11,531,875	3,547,048	15,078,923	3,538,607	1,488,288	5,026,895

a/ Annual Report of County Superintendent.

Table III. Comparison of changes in taxable valuation, between districts with and without public utilities, from 1930 to 1935. a/

Districts with Utilities	Utility Taxable Valuation 1935	Percent of total	Total taxable Valuation 1935	Total taxable Valuation 1930	Ratio: 1935 Taxable Valuation to 1930
1	39,987	54.6	73,266	75,692	96.8
2 (+ 31) b/	192,891	43.6	441,909	675,778	65.4
3	51,504	47.4	108,592	146,898	73.9
4	75,954	42.6	178,211	244,450	72.9
10	70,869	37.3	189,959	164,714	115.3
12	349,631	62.6	558,403	693,061	80.6
14	161,835	24.8	653,319	857,382	76.2
15	46,130	80.1	57,596	72,742	79.2
17	102,979	63.7	161,700	213,404	75.8
19	45,623	58.6	77,818	91,863	84.7
20	108,109	51.9	208,265	206,952	100.6
29	111,229	65.4	170,053	239,488	71.0
32	28,126	39.3	71,552	107,845	66.3
35	5,168	12.3	41,989	48,799	86.0
40	31,890	32.3	98,684	116,894	84.4
42	25,893	41.4	62,496	76,814	81.4
47	37,418	48.7	76,883	73,283	104.9
Total - 17 districts:	1,485,266	46.0	3,230,695	4,106,059	78.7

a/ Annual report of county superintendent on valuation, taxes and debt.

b/ Consolidation of districts since 1930 necessitates the indicated combinations of tax base figures for 1930 to provide an accurate basis for estimating changes.

Table III. (Con't)

Districts without utilities	Total Taxable Valuation 1935	Total Taxable Valuation 1930	Ratio: 1935 Taxable Valuation to 1930
5	353,575	390,848	90.5
6	121,192	210,104	57.7
7	58,952	75,924	77.6
8	23,792	32,949	72.2
9	78,461	139,997	56.0
11	110,973	176,105	63.0
13	77,763	111,621	69.7
16	42,325	57,496	73.6
18 (+½ of 34) a/	56,532	105,690	53.5
21	25,873	39,685	65.2
22	85,888	117,800	72.9
23	58,593	110,050	53.2
24	45,306	65,084	69.9
25	58,407	80,512	72.6
26	44,366	80,127	55.0
27	59,266	104,394	56.8
28	17,317	28,121	60.3
30 (+39) a/	52,951	81,330	65.1
33	20,390	36,003	56.6
36	114,417	149,887	76.3
37	34,165	45,944	75.1
38	51,781	86,027	60.2
41 (+½ of 34) a/	30,411	81,169	37.5
43	8,340	16,453	50.7
44	67,026	109,013	61.5
45	43,213	59,683	72.4
46	51,683	80,528	64.2
Total - 27 districts	1,783,178	2,670,034	67.1

a/ Consolidation of districts since 1930 necessitates the indicated combinations of tax base figures for 1930 to provide an accurate basis for estimating changes.

Table IV. Ratio of Taxable to Appraised Value of 764 Optioned Tracts of Land. a/

A. Classified according to residence of owners.

Ratio: Taxable to: Appraised: Value	Tracts by Residence of Owners: total	in county	outside county	outside state	Percent - by residence of Owners: total	in county	outside county	outside state
0.7 to 1.2	89	30	8	51	11.7	9.4	10.1	13.8
0.5 - 0.6	328	100	41	187	42.9	31.5	51.9	51.0
0.4 - 0.1	347	188	30	129	45.4	59.1	38.0	35.2
Total	764	318	79	367	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent by groups	100.0	41.6	10.3	48.1				

B. Classified according to type of land.

Ratio: Taxable to Appraised Value	Tracts - by type of Land: total	farming	grazing	Percent - by type of Land: total	farming	grazing
0.7 to 1.2	89	60	29	11.7	13.3	9.2
0.5 - 0.6	328	192	136	42.9	42.8	43.2
0.4 - 0.1	347	197	150	45.4	45.9	47.6
Total	764	449	315	100.0	100.0	100.0
% by types	100.0	58.8	41.2			

C. Classified according to size of tract.

Ratio: Taxable to Appraised Value	Tracts - by size: 481 acres up	321 - 480 acres	161 - 320 acres	0 - 160 acres	Percent - by size of tracts: 481 acres up	321 - 480 acres	161 - 320 acres	0 - 160 acres
0.7 to 1.2	2	5	71	11	1.6	8.7	13.6	16.6
0.5 - 0.6	41	21	234	32	34.3	36.9	44.9	48.5
0.4 - 0.1	77	31	216	23	64.1	54.4	41.5	34.9
Total	120	57	521	66	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
% by size	15.7	7.5	68.2	8.6				

a/ 1935 taxable valuation and appraised value of lands on which options had been accepted.

Table V. School district tax rates in Phillips County in last five years. a/

Districts	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	5 year Average b/
#1	3.3	7.50	5.5	12.0	11.0	7.8
2	31.7	33.90	33.9	32.0	28.5	32.0
3	7.9	12.80	10.5	12.0	15.5	11.7
4	10.3	20.00	16.5	16.0	15.0	15.6
5	9.6	19.33	13.5	16.5	16.75	15.1
6	1.2	1.26	10.0	10.0	12.5	7.0
7	6.6	1.30	11.0	7.5	11.0	8.1
8	12.0	12.00	14.0	12.0	12.0	12.
9	17.6	17.50	12.0	12.0	13.0	1
10	12.5	21.80	15.8	12.5	16.5	15.8
11	21.7	9.45	21.6	24.0	20.0	19.
12	13.0	21.00	17.9	20.0	1	1 2
13	12.0	12.00	12.0	12.0	1	1 2
14	24.0	30.75	23.5	30.0	1	2
15	12.0	12.00	10.5	5	9	6
16	12.0	12.00	12.0	12.0	13.0	12.2
17	10.0	3.55	9.5	5	9.0	3
18	9.0	15.4	12.0	1	1	1
19	0.4	3.00	12.0	1	1	9.5
20	11.7	15.00	16.0	17.0	17.75	1
21	15.8	12.75	15.0	1	1	1
22	25.3	21.15	18.7	17.0	14.5	1
23	12.0	16.00	12.0	1	1	1
24	15.6	18.31	16.5	21.0	1	1
25	9.1	8.00	11.0	3.0	10.0	8.2
26	10.0	10.00	13.75	1	1	11.7
27	4.7	16.60	20.3	2	1	1
28	12.0	1	12.0	1	1	1
29	37.6	4	50.25	1	5	4
30	1.6	9.00	2.5	9	1	6
32	1.9	26.66	16.2	2	1	17.0
33	30.0	28.52	21.7	21.0	2	2
35	10.0	7.31	2.0	1	1	8.6
36	16.8	16.	1	1	1	1
37	5.0	14.30	16.2	1	1	1
38	12.0	23.90	22.0	2	2	2
40	4.0	6.40	11.0	7.5	6	6
41	12.0	12.00	12.0	10.0	1	11.6
42	5.0	8.50	10.5	10.0	1	8.6
43	12.4	12.00	10.0	17.0	1	1
44	12.0	13.60	14.6	12.0	1	1
45	5.1	7.25	12.0	8.0	6	7
46	16.0	14.80	15.0	2	1	1
47	20.2	15.00	20.5	19.0	1	1

a/ Annual Report of County Clerk.
b/ Simple arithmetic average.

Table VI. Total property tax delinquency in Phillips County annual and cumulative, 1925 to 1934. a/

Year due	Total taxes levied	Amount unpaid on delinquent date	Percent of levy delinquent	Cumulative Delinquent c/
1934	$ 430,567	$ 125,475	29.1	$ 572,279
1933	388,803	117,943	30.3	542,967
1932	470,974	152,476	32.4	493,400
1931	439,146	137,969	31.4	416,782
1930	510,796	152,180	29.8	456,244
1929	518,841	115,270	22.2	448,155
1928	-- b/	91,701	-	470,907
1927	-- b/	102,379	-	514,209
1926	-- b/	129,138	-	584,865
1925	-- b/	137,214	-	518,902

a/ Annual reports of county clerk as of June 30, 1926 to 1935.
b/ Total taxes of school districts not reported.
c/ Cumulative delinquency (last column only) includes penalty, but not interest.

Table VII. Amount of delinquent taxes on real estate only, 1925 to 1934. a/

Year of Levy	Annual Original Delinquency	All prior years Delinquency	Total Delinquency
1934	$ 115,598	$ 424,988	$ 540,586
1933	109,529	408,999	518,528
1932	143,812	331,098	474,910
1931	133,169	273,787	406,956
1930	147,145	304,065	451,210
1929	115,270	332,885	448,155
1928	91,701	379,206	470,907
1927	100,701	397,208	497,909
1926	128,363	441,901	570,264
1925	134,719	360,575	495,294

a/ Figures for accumulated prior years and total delinquency (last two columns only) include penalty but not interest. Reports of County Clerk on June 30 of succeeding year.

Table VIII. Payment status of taxes levied on conservation lands subject to purchase, 9-year period 1926-1934, by school districts a/

Districts	Taxes levied 9-year total	Paid as due	Delinquent redeemed normally b/	Waived by county in taking tax deed	Delinquent redeemed due to Federal Program
	Amount	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	$ 2,365.41	44.6	10.3	14.0	31.1
2	18,403.57	44.9	19.7	2.5	32.9
3	1,064.25	79.3	1.5	-	19.2
4	13,832.26	59.2	12.6	0.6	27.6
5	34,750.08	58.1	13.6	4.2	24.1
6	6,836.41	63.6	16.7	1.6	18.1
7	124.34	-	-	-	100.0
8	1,449.36	39.1	11.4	-	49.5
9	8,686.97	78.3	6.9	1.1	13.7
10	733.84	74.8	-	-	25.2
11	1,420.79	44.5	22.2	-	33.3
12	594.38	33.2	31.6	-	35.2
13	115.08	23.2	76.8	-	-
14	25,999.24	64.3	14.4	-	21.3
15	658.13	56.9	6.2	-	36.9
16	1,633.02	54.0	3.6	-	42.4
18	5,089.31	48.7	15.8	0.9	34.6
19	9,852.43	47.7	24.7	0.6	27.0
20	10,176.32	65.1	11.7	2.0	21.2
22	28,860.16	40.8	17.8	4.7	36.7
23	795.94	71.1	18.8	-	10.1
24	14,734.81	53.0	6.0	10.7	30.3
25	17,359.88	40.5	17.0	5.5	37.0
26	2,157.36	61.4	4.6	-	34.0
27	13,834.94	51.5	16.8	4.5	27.2
28	399.26	64.6	-	-	35.4
30	7,442.28	69.5	9.6	-	20.9
33	10,932.85	50.5	10.9	7.7	30.9
35	2,876.97	67.9	8.4	-	23.7
36	31,621.96	40.0	21.5	2.8	35.7
37	3,696.98	49.3	16.0	-	34.7
38	2,798.11	38.9	8.4	2.3	52.4
40	4,166.99	54.8	12.6	5.6	27.0
41	4,668.40	59.8	18.3	1.1	20.8
42	3,428.20	47.7	8.0	-	44.3
44	12,291.15	55.0	16.3	0.1	28.6
45	13,064.36	49.0	25.2	1.6	24.2
46	3,877.63	46.2	17.9	1.0	35.0
47	2,390.43	66.5	8.5	-	25.0
TOTALS	325,188.90	52.5	15.5	3.0	29.0
		$170,775.11	$50,249.27	$9,701.69	$94,462.83

a/ Tax delinquency records in office of county treasurer.

b/ Includes all collections prior to April 1935, and all subsequent collections less than 3 years delinquent.

c/ Includes all collections subsequent to April 1935, of taxes 3 or more years delinquent, or taxes still unpaid on accepted lands.

Table IX. Delinquent taxes already paid and to be paid on conservation lands subject to purchase by the Federal Government with present acquisition funds.

School District	Total Delinquent Taxes on lands purchased: Paid as result of program a/	To be paid a/	Total	Shares to districts
1	$ 326.73	$ 407.82	$ 734.55	$ 106.26
2	3,417.10	2,644.62	6,061.72	1,858.69
3	-	204.72	204.72	42.66
4	2,726.62	1,084.87	3,811.49	857.34
5	4,787.83	3,584.72	8,372.55	2,316.42
6	872.52	366.29	1,238.81	173.70
7	124.34	-	124.34	18.54
8	469.41	246.80	716.24	131.65
9	1,028.65	162.98	1,191.63	230.03
10	185.02	-	185.02	41.52
11	370.96	102.66	473.62	126.29
12	190.99	18.13	209.12	54.15
14	1,750.15	3,786.73	5,536.88	1,622.62
15	-	242.80	242.80	30.96
16	671.08	20.96	692.04	152.14
18	853.92	908.92	1,762.84	335.71
19	1,571.79	1,089.43	2,661.22	533.76
20	1,028.62	1,129.52	2,158.14	477.94
22	6,955.93	3,640.12	10,596.05	2,337.47
23	80.24	-	80.24	11.10
24	3,039.30	1,422.44	4,461.74	1,077.66
25	4,121.35	2,297.11	6,418.46	891.81
26	261.11	469.46	773.57	128.55
27	2,675.88	1,084.36	3,760.24	876.80
28	-	141.52	141.52	21.84
30	1,171.03	380.41	1,551.44	225.63
33	1,467.48	1,911.85	3,379.33	957.23
35	615.46	65.72	681.18	106.70
36	7,721.89	3,565.69	11,287.58	2,783.50
37	815.59	469.13	1,284.72	270.31
38	966.58	499.36	1,465.94	410.21
40	930.39	194.32	1,124.71	110.51
41	550.27	420.12	970.39	130.62
42	1,131.72	389.37	1,519.09	221.71
44	1,865.94	1,647.81	3,513.75	479.53
45	1,098.66	2,062.05	3,160.71	487.47
46	1,472.44	84.30	1,556.74	306.63
47	104.78	492.32	597.10	114.00
District Totals	57,224.80	37,238.03	94,462.83	20,749.00

Other Funds	
State Funds	6,651.52
Gen. School Fund	7,408.56
High School Fund	10,521.62
Road Fund	5,350.86
Other county	12,368.00
Grand Total	94,462.83

a/ As of January 1, 1956.

Table X

Detail of Indebtedness of Phillips County a/

Detail of Bond Issues

Date of Issue	1926	1927	1928	1929
12/11/15 b/	193,000.00	193,000.00	193,000.00	193,000.00
7/1/18 c/	60,000.00	55,000.00	45,000.00	45,000.00
11/15/19 d/	17,500.00	17,500.00	17,500.00	17,500.00
7/1/20 e/	150,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00
1/1/21 f/	112,000.00	112,000.00	112,000.00	112,000.00
11/1/23 g/	17,500.00	16,000.00	14,500.00	13,000.00
4/1/25 h/	24,000.00	22,000.00	20,000.00	18,000.00
Total Bonds	574,000.00	565,500.00	552,000.00	548,500.00
Warrants Outstanding	68,322.37	54,118.99	80,972.97	95,248.65
Total gross debt	642,322.37	619,618.99	632,972.97	643,748.65
Sinking fund requirements	211,741.00	242,426.00	270,026.00	296,626.00
Resources				
Sinking fund Invest.	74,969.42	71,000.00	102,561.40	180,911.38
Total Cash i/	86,839.89	115,699.95	212,269.32	141,985.30
Total Resources	161,809.31	186,699.95	314,830.72	322,896.68
Net Debt	480,513.06	432,919.04	318,142.25	320,851.97

a/ Reports of County Clerk in Annual Report.
b/ 20 year refunding, optional 17 years.
c/ 20 year refunding, optional 6 years.
d/ 20 year jail bonds optional 10 years.
e/ 20 year Court house serial.
f/ 20 year refund serial.
g/ 20 year refund serial.
h/ 20 year refund serial.
i/ Includes sinking fund cash proportions not determined.

(Table X cont'd)

1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
Amount Outstanding June 30 of Each Year				February 16		
193,000.00	193,000.00	193,000.00	193,000.00	5,000.00	------	------
40,000.00	35,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	17,000.00	------
17,500.00	------	------	------	------	------	------
150,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00	------
112,000.00	112,000.00	101,000.00	90,000.00	79,000.00	68,000.00	------
11,500.00	10,000.00	8,500.00	7,000.00	5,500.00	4,000.00	------
16,000.00	14,000.00	12,000.00	10,000.00	8,000.00	6,000.00	------
540,000.00	514,000.00	489,500.00	475,000.00	272,500.00	245,000.00	200,000.00
35,050.41	6,489.47	22,022.36	22,206.29	6,076.55	5,390.29	36,496.92
575,050.41	520,489.47	511,522.36	497,206.29	278,576.55	250,390.29	236,496.92
324,061.00	341,069.00	328,601.00	337,940.26	158,000.00	147,500.00	------
				Sinking Fund Cash		61,051.15
197,000.00	221,000.00	247,500.00	260,500.00	100,000.00	75,000.00	45,000.00
116,051.96	76,607.57	49,373.74	69,429.72	53,221.96	103,317.44	135,635.51
313,051.96	297,607.57	296,873.74	329,929.72	153,221.96	178,317.44	241,686.66
261,998.45	222,881.90	214,648.62	167,276.57	125,354.59	72,072.85	-------
				Net Balance:		5,189.74

Table XI. Debt status of school districts in Phillips County as of January 1, 1936.

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS						
School Districts	Amount of Issue	Type	Interest Rate	Date issued	Date of Maturity	Annual Interest Required
#2	38,000.00	Serial	6	3-1-20	3-1-40	840.00
#2	10,296.97	Serial	6	8-1-21	8-1-41	617.82
#3	1,200.00	Amort.	6	7-1-33	7-1-43	161.32 (c)
#4	2,756.10	Serial	6	5-18-21	5-18-41	165.37
#4	4,000.00	Amort.	6	7-1-33	7-1-43	537.72 (c)
#5	3,500.00	Amort.	6	7-1-26	7-1-46	302.82 (c)
#5	5,700.00	Amort.	6	7-1-33	7-1-43	766.26 (c)
#6	500.00	Amort.	6	7-1-33	7-1-43	67.22 (c)
#7	800.00	Amort.	6	7-1-33	7-1-43	107.54 (c)
#10	3,500.00	Serial	6	11-1-19	11-1-39	150.00
#11	5,000.00	Serial	6	6-1-17	6-1-42	180.00
#11	4,500.00	Amort.	6	1-1-26	1-1-46	389.36 (c)
#12	51,000.00	Serial	6	5-1-20	5-1-40	960.00
#14	68,000.00	Serial	6	4-1-20	4-1-40	1740.00
#19	1,800.00	Amort.	6	12-15-29	12-15-49	155.74 (c)
#20	3,500.00	Serial	6	1-3-21	1-1-41	138.00
#20	2,000.00	Serial	6	6-28-22	6-28-42	120.00
#20	6,000.00	Amort.	6	6-15-31	6-15-51	519.14 (c)
#21	600.00	Serial	6	10-1-16	10-1-36	18.00
#22	4,000.00	Serial	6	10-14-22	10-14-37	138.00
#22	1,100.00	Amort.	6	7-1-33	7-1-43	147.88 (c)
#23	850.00	Amort.	6	7-1-33	7-1-43	114.26 (c)
#24	2,000.00	Amort.	6	6-15-29	6-15-49	173.04 (c)
#27	1,200.00	Serial	6	8-15-19	8-15-39	36.00
#27	1,500.00	Amort.	6	12-15-28	12-15-48	129.80 (c)
(a) #29	12,000.00	Serial	6	12-1-19	12-1-39	480.00
#30	1,250.00	Amort.	6	5-26-30	5-26-40	168.04 (c)
#32	1,500.00	Serial	6	6-1-20	6-1-35	12.00
#33	669.85	Amort.	6	1-14-24	1-14-34	90.88 (c)
#33	775.00	Amort.	6	7-1-33	7-1-43	104.18 (c)
#36	3,084.88	Serial	6	8-1-22	8-1-42	60.00
#36	2,500.00	Amort.	6	10-10-25	10-10-45	216.30 (c)
#36	2,700.00	Amort.	6	7-1-33	7-1-43	362.96 (c)
#38	1,200.00	Amort.	6	11-1-25	11-1-45	103.82 (c)
#38	2,800.00	Amort.	6	12-15-29	12-15-49	242.28 (c)
#40	3,000.00	Serial	6	6-1-20	6-1-40	90.00
#47	5,000.00	Amort.	6	6-15-29	6-15-49	432.62 (c)

Registered Warrants					
Dist. No.	Amount	Interest Rate	Amount interest Accumulated	sink. fund	Net Warrant debt
#9	624.78	6	37.49	0	662.27
#15	216.20	6	12.97	0	229.17
(a) #29	13,580.83	6	0	4,456.05	9,124.78
#43	137.00	6	101.17	238.67	0

Source: County Treasurer's Bond and Warrant Registers.

Table XI. (Con't)

School Districts	Unpaid Principal Jan. 1, 1936	Delinquent Interest	Sinking Fund	Net Bond Debt
#2	14,000.00	---	-	-
#2	10,296.97	---	819.60	23,47[illegible].37
#3	1,061.96	62.25	119.08	1,[illegible]05.13
#4	2,756.10	---	1,536.20	1,219.[illegible]0
#4	3,377.22	-	-	3,377.22
#5	2,167.50 (b)	-	-	-
#5	4,812.53	-	1,247.87	5,752.16
#6	422.14	-	109.69	312.45
#7	675.46	-	142.18	[illegible]33.28
#10	2,500.00	-	1,996.47	503.53
#11	3,000.00	-	2,069.74	930.26
#11	2,390.59 (b)	-	-	2,390.59
#12	16,000.00	-	914.67	15,085.33
#14	29,000.00	-	6,859.34	22,140.66
#19	1,494.28	-	265.96	1,22[illegible].32
#20	2,300.00	-	2,083.55	216.45
#20	2,000.00	-	-	2,000.00
#20	5,292.43	-	-	5,292.43
#21	300.00	-	269.27	30.73
#22	2,300.00	-	1,750.76	549.24
#22	928.72	-	-	928.72
#23	717.67	-	416.12	[illegible]301.55
#24	1,623.61	-	420.24	1,203.37
#27	600.00	-	381.62	[illegible]218.38
#27	1,105.53	-	-	1,105.53
(a) #29	8,000.00	-	- 167.14	[illegible],167.14
#30	654.18	-	265.84	388.34
#32	200.00	(called)	492.38	-
#33	90.88	5.45	-	96.33
#33	716.45	61.70	350.75	525.73
#36	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	-
#36	1,309.10 (b)	-	403.57	-
#36	2,279.55	-	-	3,[illegible]95.06
#38	772.37 (b)	-	-	-
#38	2,272.92	-	925.59	2,21[illegible].40
#40	1,500.00	-	827.09	67[illegible].91
#47	4,150.71	124.52	374.02	3,901.21

a/ District #29 has outstanding warrants since 1930 in the amount of $13,580.83. They invested $2,788.69 of the bond sinking fund in their own warrants and list these as "Sinking fund investment". Actually the sinking fund is overdrawn 167.14. These sinking fund investments ($2,788.69) are added in the above table to the special warrant reduction fund ($1,667.36) for a total of $4,456.05 in the warrant reduction fund. The county Treasurer's record credits this "sinking fund investment" to the bond sinking fund.

(b) Estimated from amortization table.

(c) Interest and principal.

Table XII. Annual debt service requirements of school districts in Phillips County, Montana.

School Dist.	Types of Debt	Annual Service Requirements: Interest	Reduction of Principal (a)	Annual Total (b)	Years to Maturity	Mills per yr (c): Each Issue	Total
#2	Serial	640.00	2,800.00	3,640.00	5	8.24	-
#2	Serial	617.82	1,895.67	2,513.49	5	5.69	13.93
#3	Amort.	-	-	151.22 (b)	8	-	1.42
#4	Serial	165.37	243.98	409.34	5	2.30	-
#4	Amort.	-	-	537.72	6	3.02	5.32
#5	Amort.	-	---	302.82	11	.86	-
#5	Amort.	-	-	610.28 (b)	8	1.73	2.59
#6	Amort.	-	-	53.51 (b)	8	-	.42
#7	Amort.	-	-	89.77 (b)	8	-	1.52
#9	Warrants	39.74	662.27	702.01	1	-	8.95
#10	Serial	150.00	167.84	317.84	3	-	1.67
#11	Serial	180.00	155.04	335.04	6	3.02	-
#11	Amort.	-	-	389.36	11	3.51	6.53
#12	Serial	960.00	3,771.33	4,731.33	4	-	8.47
#14	Serial	1,740.00	5,535.16	7,275.16	4	-	11.14
#15	Warrants	13.75	229.17	242.92	1	-	4.22
#19	Amort.	-	-	135.28 (b)	13	-	1.74
#20	Serial	138.00	43.29	181.29	5	.87	-
#20	Serial	120.00	333.33	453.33	6	2.18	-
#20	Amort.	-	-	519.14	15	2.49	5.54
#21	Serial	18.00	30.73	48.73	1	-	1.88
#22	Serial	138.00	274.62	412.62	2	4.80	-
#22	Amort.	-	-	147.98	8	1.72	6.52
#23	Amort.	-	---	62.84 (b)	8	-	1.06
#24	Amort.	-	-	140.71 (b)	13	-	3.11
#27	Serial	36.00	72.79	108.79	3	1.84	-
#27	Amort.	-	-	139.30	12	2.19	4.03
#29	Serial	480.00	2,722.38	3,202.38	3	16.83	-
#29	Warrants (d)	410.62	4,562.39	4,973.01	2	29.21	49.07
#30	Amort.	-	-	101.58 (b)	4	-	1.92
#33	Amort.	-	96.33	101.15	1	1.98	-
#33	Amort.	-	-	68.05 (b)	8	3.34	8.30
#36	Serial	60.00	-	60.00	6	.52	-
#36	Amort.	-	-	175.94 (b)	10	1.51	-
#36	Amort.	-	-	362.96	8	3.17	5.23
#38	Amort.	-	-	103.82	10	2.00	-
#38	Amort.	-	---	178.75 (b)	13	3.45	5.45
#40	Serial	90.00	168.23	258.23	4	-	2.02
#47	Amort.	-	-	413.43 (b)	13	-	5.34

(a) In the case of serial bonds and warrants, annual requirement for reduction of principal is figured on net debt basis.

(b) In the case of amortization bonds, the annual amortization payment has been reduced by the annual fraction of sinking funds.

(c) Calculated on taxable valuation as assessed in 1935.

(d) If District #29 is to comply with the law its warrant debt with interest must be paid off by July 1, 1937, or in two years. The interest shown is the annual average of two payments: $547.13, the first year, and $275.71 the second.

Table XIII. County revenue receipts classified by sources. a/

Years End. June 30	Current Taxes	Delinquent Taxes and Penalty	Poor and Road Poll Taxes	Fees and Charges	Licences and Permits	Automobile Registration
1926	98,466.29	106,405.57	624.00	6,454.70	469.01	17,231.24
1927	143,934.68	52,737.61	278.00	5,665.50	457.39	8,514.25
1928	156,947.81	130,905.10	--	5,729.80	536.66	17,958.05
1929	162,905.06	74,209.91	1,634.00	6,619.05	578.19	19,774.00
1930	190,344.52	27,949.64	458.00	4,999.40	636.47	25,704.90
1931	168,407.98	30,577.61	300.00	4,817.45	471.59	18,711.75
1932	142,351.19	3,781.17	466.00	4,983.85	405.44	14,909.54
1933	143,157.02	21,538.42	--	4,541.60	475.93	12,715.09
1934	98,970.61	37,130.06	--	4,569.07	416.33	11,008.25
1935	117,945.33	46,646.64	1,040.52	4,947.71	303.85	15,565.04
Percent						
1926	40.6	43.8	0.3	2.7	0.2	7.1
1935	53.8	21.3	0.5	2.3	0.2	7.1

a/ Data from annual reports of county clerk.

Table XI[illegible]. (Con't)

Gas Tax	Tax Deed Land: Rentals	Tax Deed Land: Sale	Interest	All Other	Total
5,084.71	--	--	5,031.52	2,600.56	242,367.60
13,203.18	--		2,904.37	5,789.72	233,484.70
--	69.60	6,539.18	18,956.56	9,687.26	317,330.02
	69.60	9,783.64	10,247.64	5,363.41	291,184.50
--	280.00	12,268.32	10,090.98	4,604.20	277,346.43
--	2,324.92	3,213.19	19,853.90	3,608.55	252,284.94
--	2,919.55	1,139.30	11,633.27	7,643.77	190,233.08
--	--	3,821.9[illegible]	15,737.32	8,100.20	210,083.51
--	2,150.81	9,598.06	20,655.17	7,807.63	192,305.99
--	5,850.93	9,041.70	12,985.26	4,[illegible]95.25	219,222.23
2.1	--	--	2.1	1.1	100.0
--	2.7	4.1	5.9	2.2	100.0

Table XIV. County payments - classified by purposes. a/

Years end. June 30.	General Gov't (b)	Health & Welfare: Outside Poor	Health & Welfare: Other (c)	Highways and Bridges	Miscellaneous (d)	Debt Service: Bond Principal	Debt Service: (e) All Interest	Total Payments
1926	67,905.71	14,424.03	7,147.63	54,795.89	7,791.79	16,500.00	37,151.91	205,716.96
1927	77,868.47	11,834.74	6,609.75	50,162.99	8,194.70	8,500.00	36,701.44	199,872.09
1928	74,845.43	10,550.62	12,708.96	104,898.75	13,242.86	13,500.00	37,758.07	267,504.69
1929	88,467.09	8,600.60	11,334.25	140,642.49	12,096.98	3,500.00	35,334.38	299,975.79
1930	94,106.89	6,991.54	10,550.91	37,575.46	14,172.45	8,500.00	39,133.96	211,031.21
1931	93,888.21	8,127.24	13,563.15	46,156.50	18,372.72	26,000.00	35,318.34	241,426.16
1932	63,372.85	14,107.00	8,989.82	54,749.96	13,650.77	24,500.00	29,269.71	208,640.11
1933	49,492.02	17,734.58	9,241.21	47,156.28	9,694.54	14,500.00	29,577.52	177,396.15
1934	44,409.89	17,336.47	8,927.84	40,717.66	9,676.67	202,500.00	29,001.53	352,570.06
1935	53,235.03	21,517.83	9,156.05	45,861.73	11,171.14	27,500.00	17,351.59	185,793.37
Percent								
1926	33.0	7.0	3.5	26.6	3.8	8.0	18.1	100.0
1935	28.7	11.6	4.9	24.7	6.0	14.8	9.3	100.0

(a) Report of County Clerk.
(b) Departmental expenses (201-214) County Supt., County Agent, and capital outlay for buildings, grounds and fixtures.
(c) Includes health and sanitation (216), Charities and Corrections, except outside poor (221,225 to 223) and any capital outlay for poor farm.
(d) Includes library, fair, gopher eradication, land by tax deed and other miscellaneous items.
(e) Bond and warrant interest.

Table XV. School District Receipts by Sources, Year ending June 30, 1935. a/

Districts	Total	Local dist. taxes	Co.-6 Mill Levy	State Apport.	State Equal.	All Other
#1	772.96	607.97	103.99	61.00	-	-
2	18,647.36	14,325.98	2,429.88	1,280.90	-	610.60
3	2,730.46	1,883.67	361.62	207.38	-	277.79
4	4,656.23	3,503.17	723.65	396.47	-	32.94
5	8,124.66	5,261.11	1,507.94	774.64	580.97	-
6	1,179.42	698.25	322.58	158.59	-	-
7	1,292.04	432.89	560.27	298.88	-	-
8	1,072.13	360.28	163.80	79.29	452.76	16.00
9	1,702.48	1,198.33	322.72	152.49	28.94	-
10	5,247.34	2,865.83	952.00	506.26	-	923.25
11	2,772.50	1,559.59	708.04	420.87	-	84.00
12	32,724.35	27,615.38	3,321.60	1,787.37	-	-
13	1,878.15	1,040.62	431.46	225.68	148.16	32.23
14	35,511.94	20,155.89	8,838.51	4,800.31	-	1,717.23
15	997.70	660.06	153.62	85.39	98.63	-
16	2,020.73	896.23	242.56	146.39	585.55	150.00
17	1,723.50	761.16	630.25	311.07	-	21.02
18	2,891.99	1,196.08	470.50	274.48	902.93	48.00
19	1,023.98	476.94	351.86	195.18	-	-
20	3,526.53	2,845.25	461.70	219.58	-	-
21	843.01	470.06	232.66	140.29	-	-
22	2,117.83	1,188.74	589.82	323.27	-	16.00
23	2,174.50	1,034.58	247.86	134.19	757.12	.75
24	2,103.50	798.70	292.47	158.59	853.74	
25	982.82	727.81	163.52	91.49		
26	1,730.91	521.38	352.14	182.99		674.40
27	2,051.23	1,162.00	168.26	103.69	585.28	32.00
28	1,109.76	386.04	128.81	73.19	521.72	-
29	8,712.93	6,675.69	426.44	225.68	-	1,385.12
30	833.28	702.16	94.52	36.60	-	-
32	2,130.48	1,903.39	153.90	73.19	-	-
33	848.00	338.12	89.22	48.80	371.86	-
35	624.19	471.12	104.27	48.80	-	-
36	2,021.01	1,258.75	506.18	250.08	-	6.00
37	1,449.93	717.82	475.93	256.18	-	-
38	3,884.74	1,873.55	549.95	311.07	1,150.17	-
40	1,477.92	902.02	356.32	219.58	-	-
41	994.55	466.43	168.54	91.49	268.09	-
42	988.85	723.80	173.56	91.49	-	-
43	216.95	51.96	103.99	61.00	-	-
44	2,201.65	1,060.12	416.83	207.38	513.32	4.
45	992.78	482.41	306.97	182.99	-	20.41
46	2,266.30	646.80	634.85	329.37	655.28	-
47	2,251.44	1,159.81	486.24	243.98	329.41	32.00

a/ Elementary schools only.
See annual report of county superintendent.

Table XV (Con't)

Dis-tricts	Percent by Sources: Local dist. tax	Co. 6 Mill Levy	State Apport.	State Equal.	All Other
#1	78.7	13.4	7.9	-	-
2	76.8	13.0	6.9	-	3.3
3	69.0	13.2	7.6	-	10.2
4	75.2	15.6	8.5	-	.7
5	64.8	18.6	9.5	7.1	-
6	59.2	27.4	13.4	-	-
7	33.5	43.4	23.1	-	-
8	33.6	15.3	7.4	42.2	1.5
9	70.4	19.0	8.9	1.7	-
10	54.6	18.2	9.6	-	17.6
11	56.3	25.5	15.2	-	3.0
12	84.4	10.1	5.5	-	-
13	58.4	23.0	12.0	7.9	1.7
14	56.8	24.9	13.5	-	4.8
15	66.2	15.4	8.5	9.9	-
16	44.1	12.0	7.2	29.0	7.7
17	47.2	36.6	18.0	-	1.2
18	41.3	16.3	9.5	31.2	1.7
19	46.6	34.3	19.1	-	-
20	80.7	13.1	6.2	-	-
21	55.8	27.6	16.6	-	-
22	56.1	27.9	15.3	-	.7
23	47.3	11.4	6.2	34.8	.03
24	38.0	13.9	7.5	40.6	-
25	74.1	16.6	9.3	-	-
26	30.1	20.3	10.6	-	39.0
27	56.6	8.2	5.1	28.5	1.6
28	34.8	11.6	6.6	47.0	-
29	76.6	4.9	2.6	-	15.9
30	84.3	11.3	4.4	-	-
32	89.4	7.2	3.4	-	-
33	39.9	10.5	5.8	43.8	-
35	75.5	16.7	7.8	-	-
36	62.3	25.0	12.4	-	.3
37	49.5	32.8	17.7	-	-
38	48.2	14.2	8.0	29.6	-
40	61.0	24.1	14.9	-	-
41	46.9	16.9	9.2	27.0	-
42	73.2	17.5	9.3	-	-
43	24.0	47.9	28.1	-	-
44	48.2	18.9	9.4	23.3	.2
45	48.6	30.9	18.4	-	2.1
46	28.6	28.0	14.5	28.9	-
47	51.5	21.8	10.8	14.7	1.2

Table XVI. School district disbursements for elementary schools only by major purposes for year ending June 30, 1935. a/

District	Teachers	Enrollment	Total Expenditures	Operating Costs	Capital Outlay	Debt Service: Bond Interest	Debt Service: Bond Principal	Warrant redemption
1	1	8	$ 601.73	$ 601.73	0	0	0	0
2	7	117	16,931.51	9,508.06	70.80	0	$5,514.48	1,838.17
3	2	24	2,184.87	1,914.57	0	270.30	0	0
4	4	29	3,500.29	2,751.94	1.25	0	747.10	0
5	7	83	7,367.27	6,010.37	12.26	.87	1,343.77	0
6	1	8	1,042.27	937.67	0	0	104.60	0
7	1	25	2,079.32	1,218.16	0	18.00	0	843.07
8	1	12	900.00	900.00	0	0	0	0
9	2	13	1,602.98	1,602.98	0	0	0	0
10	4	84	5,275.10	2,229.41	310.70	284.99	2,450.00	0
11	4	34	3,822.58	3,241.75	10.00	0	0	570.83
12	6	168	36,989.32	9,207.19	122.13	0	27,660.00	0
13	3	33	2,561.38	2,448.41	31.90	0	0	81.07
14	12	386	28,878.19	18,230.21	45.55	2,602.73	8,000.00	0
15	1	10	943.51	785.07	0	158.44	0	0
16	2	19	1,504.00	1,500.50	3.50	0	0	0
17	2	32	2,204.61	2,204.61	0	0	0	0
18	3	25	2,197.03	2,066.09	130.94	0	0	0
19	1	18	1,003.43	843.81	0	159.62	0	0
20	2	30	2,697.58	1,904.25	12.60	0	780.73	0
21	1	6	837.87	819.87	0	0	18.00	0
22	2	25	1,767.06	1,400.85	0	17.76	286.44	62.01
23	2	16	1,144.07	1,383.09	0	0	60.98	0
24	2	17	2,405.26	1,522.73	0	0	367.41	515.12
25	1	6	1,046.17	770.21	0	0	0	275.96
26	2	29	1,732.32	1,691.82	40.50	0	0	0
27	2	12	1,733.19	1,508.77	3.00	54.97	166.45	0
28	1	8	879.27	879.27	0	0	0	0
29	1	21	7,928.85	1,723.28	0	0	3,238.67	2,966.90
30	1	2	714.18	458.67	0	0	255.51	0
32	1	6	2,483.63	563.27	0	120.36	1,800.00	0
33	1	4	1,098.44	800.72	0	0	105.38	192.34
35	1	3	700.79	700.79	0	0	0	0
36	2	14	2,072.25	1,283.88	0	212.63	575.74	0
37	1	24	928.58	781.26	0	0	94.85	52.47
38	3	32	3,716.98	2,367.75	0	51.91	582.00	715.32
40	1	17	1,478.72	858.72	0	120.00	500.00	0
41	1	8	1,329.77	1,002.62	0	0	0	27.15
42	1	7	711.86	711.86	0	0	0	0
43	-	-	291.28	190.92	0	0	0	100.36
44	2	23	2,349.25	1,595.55	204.45	30.19	0	519.06
45	1	18	764.94	692.04	72.00	0	0	0
46	3	25	2,561.34	2,064.52	91.05	53.45	352.32	0
47	2	17	3,322.28	2,862.50	25.00	0	434.78	0

a/ Annual report of county superintendent.

Table XVII. Operating cost payments of school districts for school year ending June 30, 1935. a/

School District	Total Current Costs	Instruction	Pupil transportation	Maintenance Operation & Fixed Charges	Transfers to other districts
1	$ 601.73	$ 546.39	-	$ 53.34	-
2	9,508.06	6,843.45	$ 1,157.00	1,507.61	-
3	1,914.57	1,520.00	90.00	304.57	-
4	2,751.94	2,263.45	75.00	403.45	10.04
5	6,010.37	4,975.29	-	907.09	127.99
6	937.67	639.87	255.00	42.80	-
7	1,218.16	992.40	-	186.34	39.42
8	900.00	750.00	-	150.00	-
9	1,602.98	1,286.51	75.00	223.17	18.00
10	2,229.41	1,997.14	-	232.27	-
11	3,241.75	2,810.05	-	431.70	-
12	9,207.19	6,043.62	1,815.30	1,348.27	-
13	2,448.41	2,269.67	-	178.74	-
14	18,230.21	15,048.93	601.94	2,549.22	30.12
15	785.07	738.92	-	46.15	-
16	1,500.50	1,282.37	-	218.13	-
17	2,204.61	1,798.54	180.00	221.05	5.02
18	2,068.09	1,737.72	65.00	263.37	-
19	843.81	669.31	-	174.50	-
20	1,904.25	1,484.29	-	387.96	32.00
21	819.37	715.77	-	104.10	-
22	1,400.85	1,044.28	-	356.57	-
23	1,383.09	1,224.18	-	158.91	-
24	1,522.73	1,240.89	12.08	269.76	-
25	770.21	637.97	-	132.24	-
26	1,691.82	1,416.47	-	275.35	-
27	1,508.77	1,327.69	-	181.08	-
28	879.27	697.67	-	181.60	-
29	1,723.28	974.32	219.35	529.61	-
30	456.67	414.02	-	44.65	-
32	563.27	211.27	272.40	24.70	54.90
33	800.72	706.12	-	94.60	-
35	700.79	625.00	-	75.79	-
36	1,283.88	1,171.63	50.00	46.25	16.00
37	781.26	650.42	-	130.84	-
38	2,367.75	2,021.19	60.00	286.56	-
40	858.72	655.60	-	203.12	-
41	1,002.62	673.67	103.00	198.95	32.00
42	711.86	614.11	-	97.75	-
43	190.92	-	190.92	-	-
44	1,595.55	1,317.80	-	277.75	-
45	692.94	647.54	-	45.40	-
46	2,064.52	1,513.38	-	551.14	-
47	2,862.50	2,562.50	90.00	210.00	-

a/ Annual report of county school superintendent.

Table XVIII. Estimated costs of operation of one-teacher schools in Phillips County for year ending June 30, 1935.

District	Name of School	No. teachers	Original enrollment a/	Aggregate daily attendance a/	Total b/	per pupil enrolled	per pupil per day in attendance
30	Lovejoy	1	2	272	458.67	219.33	1.69
35	Avy L. Short	1	3	507	700.79	233.60	1.38
16	Black Coulee	1	4	603	730.00	182.50	1.21
33	Grove Coulee	1	4	669	800.72	200.18	1.20
3	Cook	1	5	400	741.00	148.20	1.85
5	Sanders	1	5	808	840.34	168.07	1.04
18	Higdem	1	5	677	688.70	137.74	1.02
9	Kropp	1	5	854	792.49	158.50	.93
47	Donovan	1	5	353	700.00	140.00	.82
2	Rolling Prairie	1	5	875	675.00	135.00	.77
4	Hould	1	5	1,068	700.00	140.00	.66
21	Circle Diamond	1	6	833	819.87	136.65	.98
46	Flat Rock	1	6	747	688.17	114.70	.92
27	Fallow Creek	1	6	906	754.38	125.73	.83
25	Caldwell	1	6	964	770.21	128.37	.80
27	Washington	1	6	991	754.39	125.73	.76
24	North First Creek	1	6	1,485	761.37	126.90	.51
36	Plainview	1	7	850	633.94	90.56	.75
11	Corral Coulee	1	7	1,094	810.43	115.78	.74
36	Haukes	1	7	933	633.94	90.56	.68
42	Pearson	1	7	1,064	711.86	101.69	.67
18	Gunhus	1	7	1,069	688.69	98.38	.64
11	Frenchman Creek	1	7	1,360	810.44	115.78	.60
10	Huntley	1	7	1,024	557.35	79.62	.54
5	Little Ben	1	8	1,014	840.34	105.04	.83
6	Gairrett (Cookay)	1	8	1,178	937.67	117.30	.80
28	Busy Bee	1	8	1,218	879.27	109.91	.72
1	Plainview	1	8	840	601.73	75.21	.71
41	Box Elder	1	8	1,377	970.62	121.33	.70
9	Free Water	1	8	1,160	792.49	99.06	.68
5	Rudolph Valley	1	8	1,318	840.34	105.04	.64
46	Grytdahl	1	8	1,305	688.17	86.02	.53
5	Schmeeckel	1	9	988	840.34	93.37	.85
23	Pleasant View	1	9	1,221	843.09	93.68	.69
11	Tollefson	1	9	1,446	810.44	90.05	.56
38	South Harb	1	9	1,502	769.25	85.47	.51
2	Schumaker	1	9	1,407	675.00	75.00	.47

a/ Data from county superintendent with district total figures apportioned to individual schools.

b/ Transfers to other districts omitted from total costs for operation.

Table XVIII (Con't)

District	Name of School	No. teachers	original enrollment	Aggregate daily attendance	Estimated Operational Costs: Total	per pupil enrolled	per pupil per day in attendance
2	Longview	1	9	1,530	675.00	75.00	.44
4	Central	1	10	1,079	800.00	80.00	.74
4	Ereaux	1	10	1,877	1,091.90	109.19	.58
5	Phillips	1	10	1,601	840.34	84.03	.52
20	Community	1	10	1,666	872.25	87.23	.52
13	U.L.	1	10	1,614	816.1[illegible]	81.61	.51
13	Leedy	1	10	1,633	816.14	81.61	.50
15	La Fond	1	10	1,596	785.07	78.51	.49
38	West Harb	1	10	1,596	769.25	76.93	.48
5	Regina	1	11	1,171	840.34	76.39	.72
24	South First Creek	1	11	1,616	761.38	69.21	.47
11	Oback	1	11	1,787	810.44	73.6[illegible]	.45
46	New Deal	1	11	1,564	688.18	62.56	.44
44	Waleston	1	11	1,751	797.78	72.53	.45
10	New Minot	1	11	1,848	557.35	50.67	.30
8	Sun Prairie	1	12	1,543	900.00	75.00	.58
44	Berg	1	12	1,696	797.77	66.48	.47
26	Kirkaldie	1	13	1,930	845.91	65.07	.44
38	North Harb	1	13	1,930	769.25	59.17	.40
13	Telegraph Creek	1	13	2,185	816.14	62.78	.37
18	Pioneer	1	13	2,016	686.70	52.98	.34
16	Hillsdale	1	15	2,309	770.50	51.37	.33
26	Brookside	1	16	1,924	845.91	52.87	.44
47	Loring	1	17	3,288	2,162.50	127.21	.66
22	North Fork	1	17	1,823	700.42	41.20	.38
40	Hermanson	1	17	2,750	858.72	50.51	.31
45	Nelson	1	18	1,894	692.94	38.50	.37
19	Sunny Slope	1	18	2,873	843.81	46.88	.29
22	Victory	1	18	2,421	700.43	38.91	.29
3	Wagner	1	19	2,048	1,073.57	56.50	.52
20	Whitewater	1	20	3,306	1,000.00	50.00	.30
29	Bowdoin	1	21	3,248	1,723.28	82.06	.53
37	Soennichsen	1	24	3,615	781.26	32.55	.22
7	Landusky	1	25	3,680	1,17[illegible].74	47.15	.32
5	Zortman	1	25	3,769	840.34	33.61	.22

Table XIX. School census population of school districts, at five-year intervals from 1920 to 1935. a/

Districts	Number of School Census Children (6-21 years)				Per cent Change 1920 to 1935		
	1920	1925	1930	1935			
1	11	6	10	10	-	9.1	
2 (+ old 24 + 31)	223	205	228	224	+	.4	Dodson
3	46	36	52	26	-	43.5	
4	59	70	89	52	-	11.9	
5	208	104	138	97	-	53.4	
6	96	50	29	31	-	67.7	
7 (+ old 34)	75	59	59	55	-	26.7	
9	67	24	31	24	-	64.2	
10	44	25	43	134	+	204.5	Cole
11	102	81	89	63	-	38.2	
12	336	335	239	235	-	30.1	Saco
13	37	28	30	33	-	10.8	
14 (+ 16)	772	720	649	801	+	3.7	Malta
15	20	12	8	14	-	30.0	
17	48	51	60	57	+	18.7	Strater
18 (+ ⅓ new 34)	57	53	58	39	-	31.6	
19 (+35)	61	44	51	42	-	31.1	
20	33	12	34	34	+	3.0	White water
21	18	20	11	14	-	22.2	
22	54	52	56	49	-	9.3	
23	75	53	40	15	-	80.0	
25	24	27	25	15	-	37.5	
26	26	12	29	32	+	23.1	
27	24	10	18	8	-	66.7	
28	9	14	15	14	+	55.5	
29	180	98	68	30	-	83.3	Bowdoin
30 (add 39)	36	20	10	6	-	83.3	
32	24	26	11	11	-	54.2	
33	29	12	10	7	-	75.9	
36 (+ 45+46)	103	88	125	101	-	2.0	
37	21	25	38	43	+	104.8	
38	28	48	61	52	+	85.7	Harb Table
40	46	33	46	31	-	32.6	
41 (+ 8+24+⅓ new 34)	103	49	48	44	-	57.3	
42	17	23	17	14	-	17.7	
43	17	12	13	9	-	47.1	
44	59	28	26	38	-	35.6	
47	-	14	30	37	+	164.3	Loring
Totals	3138	2579	2594	2541	-	20.0	

a/ Annual school enumeration records in office of county superintendent.

Table XX. School abandonment in Phillips County. a/

District	School Buildings in use	School Buildings closed	School Buildings total
#1	0	1	1
2	4	5	9
3	1	2	3
4	3	1	4
5	7	5	12
6	1	2	3
7	1	0	1
8	1	0	1
9	2	1	3
10	3	0	3
11	3	4	7
12	1	0	1
13	3	0	3
14	1	1	2
15	1	0	1
16	2	0	2
17	2	0	2
18	2	1	3
19	1	1	2
20	2	0	2
21	1	0	1
22	2	0	2
23	2	1	3
24	2	0	2
25	1	0	1
26	2	0	2
27	1	1	2
28	1	0	1
29	1	0	1
30	0	2	2
32	0	2	2
33	0	1	1
35	1	0	1
36	2	2	4
37	1	0	1
38	3	0	3
40	1	0	1
41	1	1	2
42	1	0	1
43	0	1	1
44	2	0	2
45	1	0	1
46	2	0	2
47	1	0	1
	70	35	105

a/ County map and teachers' reports, January 1936.

Table XXI. Influence of federal land purchase on tax bases of school districts having and not having utilities, and of the county a/

Districts without utilities	Taxable Land purchased acres b/	Land purchased Valuation	Total tax base	Portion of tax base purchased	Tax Base balance to remain
				Percent	
Dist. #33	10,440	$ 10,033	$ 20,390	49.2	$ 10,357
22	27,731	38,150	85,888	44.4	47,738
25	13,648	25,411	58,407	43.5	32,996
24	17,853	16,793	45,306	37.1	28,513
45	9,218	15,432	43,213	35.8	27,731
56	29,545	40,559	114,417	35.4	73,858
44	13,346	16,511	67,026	24.6	50,515
27	13,726	14,258	59,366	24.1	45,008
30	6,578	8,173	52,951	15.4	44,778
41	5,900	4,657	30,411	15.3	25,754
37	3,472	4,202	34,485	12.2	30,283
9	8,195	9,393	78,461	12.0	69,068
5	33,930	35,645	353,575	10.1	317,930
18	5,309	5,007	56,532	8.9	51,525
46	3,272	4,105	51,683	7.9	47,578
8	2,387	1,879	23,792	7.9	21,913
6	9,795	7,860	121,192	6.5	113,332
26	2,071	2,337	44,266	5.3	41,929
38	2,106	2,201	51,781	4.3	49,580
16	880	1,620	42,325	3.8	40,705
28	320	456	17,317	2.6	16,861
23	640	682	58,593	1.5	57,711
11	1,176	1,347	110,973	1.2	109,626
7	255	236	58,952	.4	58,716
13	160	120 c/	77,763	0.2	77,643
21	0	0	0	0	0
43	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Total					
25 districts	221,380	267,317	1,758,965	15.2	-

a/ Detailed valuation data from 1935 assessment rolls; tax bases of school districts from assessor's report to county clerk.

b/ Includes conservation and development land only.

c/ This 160 acre tract tax exempt in 1935. Valuation of $120 as shown was 1934 valuation.

Table XXI (Con't)

Districts with Utilities	Taxable land purchased Acres a/	Land Purchased Valuation	Total tax base	Portion of tax base purchased	Tax base balance to remain
				Percent	
Dist. #19	10,176	$ 13,058	$ 77,[illegible]13	17.9	63,830
4	10,475	15,685	178,[illegible]11	[illegible].8 b/	162,526
35	3,546	3,656	4[illegible],98[illegible]	6.7	38,333
42	3,122	4,943	62,49[illegible]	7.8	57,553
20	9,732	12,478	208,265	6.0	195,787
1	2,941	4,288	73,266	5.9	68,978
40	4,383	4,811	98,684	4.9	93,873
2	12,620	18,432	441,909	4.2 b/	423,477
14	18,482	23,927	653,319	3.7 b/	629,392
47	2,451	3,138	76,[illegible]83	4.1	73,745
3	991	1,173	108,[illegible]92	1.1 b/	107,418
15	80	384	57,596	.7	57,212
10	514	733	189,950	.4	189,226
12	640	702	558,403	.1	557,701
17	0	0	0	0	0
29	0	0	0	0	0
32	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Total 14 districts	80,171	108,111	2,827,390	3.8	-
Total County	301,551	[illegible],826	5,023,375 c/	7.5	[illegible],645,215

a/ Includes conservation and development land only.
b/ Will be further reduced by purchase of resettlement land.
c/ Includes $437,516 valuation of 5 districts in which no land is subject to purchase with present funds.

Table XXII. Normal tax worth of taxable lands purchased for grazing use in Phillips County. a/

District	Taxable Acres b/ Purchased	9 years taxes levied 1926-34 Total	Annual Average	Annual average per acre
1	2,941	$ 2,365.41	$ 262.82	$ .09
2	12,620	18,403.57	2,044.84	.16
3	991	1,064.25	118.25	.12
4	10,475	13,832.26	1,536.92	.15
5	33,980	34,750.08	3,861.12	.11
6	9,795	6,836.41	759.60	.08
7	255	124.34	13.82	.05
8	2,387	1,449.36	161.04	.07
9	8,195	8,686.97	965.22	.12
10	514	733.84	81.54	.16
11	1,176	1,420.79	157.87	.13
12	640	594.38	66.04	.10
13	160	115.08	12.79	.08
14	18,482	25,999.24	2,888.80	.16
15	80	658.18	73.13	.91
16	880	1,633.02	181.45	.21
18	5,309	5,089.31	565.48	.11
19	10,176	9,852.43	1,084.71	.11
20	9,732	10,179.32	1,131.03	.12
22	27,731	28,860.16	3,206.68	.12
23	640	795.64	88.04	.14
24	17,853	14,734.81	1,637.20	.09
25	13,048	17,359.88	1,928.87	.15
26	2,071	2,157.36	239.71	.12
27	13,726	13,834.94	1,537.21	.11
28	320	399.26	44.36	.14
30	6,578	7,442.28	826.92	.13
33	10,440	10,932.85	1,214.76	.12
35	3,546	2,876.97	131.97	.04
36	29,545	31,621.96	3,513.55	.12
37	3,472	3,698.98	411.00	.12
38	2,106	2,798.11	310.90	.15
40	4,383	4,166.99	463.00	.11
41	5,900	4,668.40	518.71	.09
42	3,122	3,428.20	380.91	.12
44	13,346	12,291.15	1,365.68	.10
45	9,213	13,064.36	1,451.60	.16
46	3,272	3,877.63	430.85	.13
47	2,451	2,390.43	265.60	.11
Total	301,551	325,188.60	35,943.99	.12

a/ Annual tax rolls of Phillips County, with specific data on all tracts under accepted options; also delinquency records.

b/ Includes only lands which were on tax rolls prior to purchase.

District	9 years taxes collected			
	Total c/	Annual Average	Annual Average per acre	Percent of taxes levied
1	$ 1,297.81	$ 144.20	$ .05	54.9
2	11,876.65	1,319.62	.10	64.5
3	859.53	95.50	.10	80.0
4	9,939.13	1,104.34	.11	71.9
5	24,907.38	2,767.48	.08	71.7
6	5,487.10	609.67	.06	80.3
7	-	-	-	-
8	733.12	81.46	.03	50.5
9	7,402.42	822.49	.10	85.2
10	548.82	60.98	.12	74.9
11	947.17	105.24	.09	60.7
12	385.26	42.81	.07	64.3
13	115.06	12.79	.03	100.0
14	20,462.36	2,273.60	.12	78.7
15	415.38	46.15	.5	63.1
16	940.98	104.55	.12	57.6
18	3,282.39	364.71	.07	64.5
19	7,132.47	792.50	.08	72.4
20	7,816.98	868.55	.09	76.3
22	16,915.97	1,879.55	.07	58.6
23	715.70	79.52	.11	39.9
24	8,692.75	965.86	.05	59.0
25	9,987.44	1,109.71	.08	57.5
26	1,423.79	158.20	.03	66.0
27	9,447.40	1,049.71	.05	68.3
28	257.74	28.64	.03	64.6
30	5,890.84	654.54	.10	79.1
33	6,709.30	745.36	.07	61.4
35	2,195.79	243.98	.07	70.6
36	19,462.82	2,162.53	.07	61.5
37	2,414.26	268.25	.08	65.6
38	1,267.59	140.84	.07	45.6
40	2,808.94	312.10	.07	67.4
41	3,646.67	405.19	.07	78.1
42	1,909.11	212.12	.07	58.7
44	8,761.43	973.49	.07	71.6
45	9,694.32	1,077.15	.12	71.2
46	2,480.66	275.63	.08	64.0
47	1,792.83	199.20	.08	75.0
Total	221,024.39	24,558.21	.08	68.0

c/ Includes all taxes paid as due and redeemed normally (not due to influence of Federal purchase).

Table XLIII. Distributive shares of average taxes collected annually over 9-year period from lands purchased

Funds	Distributive shares of annual tax revenue a/
State	$ 1,737.47
School districts	5,414.55
General School (Co)	1,966.36
High School	3,254.93
Road and Bridge	3,254.93
All other county	8,929.97
Total	24,553.21

a/ In deriving these estimates the school district share of taxes collected on lands located within each respective district was first computed on the basis of the ratio of the district tax rate to the aggregate property tax rate effective within the district for the five-year period 1930-1934. The products of these computations are presented in the third column of Table XXIV. The total of these amounts was then subtracted from the aggregate annual collections (Table XXII) and the balance prorated among the other funds in proportion to their respective average levies for the 5-year period.

Table XXIV. Estimated effects of Federal land purchase upon school district revenues

Dists.	Revenues from all sources 1935	Revenues from General taxes 1935	9 yr. ave. annual revenue from land purchased	Ratio average tax revenue from purchased land to total tax revenue in 1935	Ratio average tax revenue from purchased land to total revenue from all sources in 1935
33	$ 848.00	$ 338.12	219.14	64.8	25.8
22	2,117.83	1,189.74	430.32	36.2	20.3
19	1,023.98	476.94	170.39	35.7	16.6
36	2,021.01	1,258.75	441.16	35.1	21.8
45	992.78	482.41	143.26	29.7	14.4
24	2,103.50	798.70	236.63	29.6	11.2
27	2,051.25	1,162.00	244.58	21.1	11.9
25	982.82	727.81	148.70	20.4	15.1
30	833.28	702.16	113.89	16.2	13.7
41	994.55	403.43	38.09	11.8	6.1
9	1,702.48	1,198.38	155.45	13.0	9.1
44	2,201.65	1,060.12	132.39	12.5	6.0
5	8,124.66	5,261.11	628.22	11.9	7.7
6	1,179.42	698.25	80.48	11.5	6.8
46	2,266.30	646.80	62.57	9.7	2.8
37	1,419.93	717.52	54.99	7.7	3.8
4	4,656.23	3,503.17	248.48	7.1	5.3
35	621.19	471.12	33.43	7.1	5.4
20	3,526.53	2,845.25	191.08	6.7	5.4
18	2,891.99	1,196.08	71.48	6.0	2.5
26	1,730.91	521.38	27.84	5.3	1.6
7	2,251.44	1,159.81	50.60	4.4	2.3
42	988.85	723.80	30.97	4.3	3.1
40	1,477.92	902.02	36.83	4.1	2.5
8	1,072.13	360.28	14.42	4.0	1.3
14	35,511.94	20,155.89	729.82	3.6	2.1
1	772.96	607.97	20.62	3.4	2.7
2	18,647.36	14,525.98	469.78	3.3	2.5
38	3,884.74	1,873.55	40.98	2.2	1.1
16	2,020.73	896.23	18.51	2.1	0.9
11	2,772.50	1,558.59	25.99	1.7	0.9
23	2,174.50	1,084.58	14.63	1.4	0.7
28	1,109.76	386.04	5.07	1.3	0.5
3	2,730.46	1,883.67	19.48	1.0	0.7
15	937.70	660.06	6.60	1.0	0.7
10	5,217.34	2,865.83	15.60	0.5	0.3
13	1,878.15	1,040.62	2.26	0.2	0.1
12	32,724.35	27,615.38	10.92	--	--
7 a/	-	-	-	-	-

a/ Districts 7, 17, 21, 29, 32, either no lands purchased or no revenue reductions in excess of 0.1 percent.

Table XXV. Influence of Federal Purchase of Conservation Lands on Debt Status of School Districts and Phillips County.

District	Net debt (Bond and warrant) 1/1/36 a/	Taxable Valuation before Purchase b/	Taxable Valuation Lands Purchased b/	Taxable Valuation remaining	Debt per $1000 old tax base	Debt per $1000 on reduced tax base	Increase due to Purchase
#2	$ 23,478	$ 441,909	$ 18,432	$ 423,477	$ 53.13	$ 55.44	$ 2.31
3	1,005	108,592	1,176	107,416	9.25	9.35	.10
4	4,597	178,211	15,685	162,526	25.79	28.28	2.49
5	5,752	353,575	35,645	317,930	16.26	18.09	1.83
6	313	121,192	7,860	113,332	2.57	2.75	.18
7	533	58,952	236	58,716	9.04	9.08	.04
9	662	78,461	9,393	69,068	8.44	9.58	1.14
10	504	189,959	733	189,226	2.65	2.65	0
11	3,321	110,973	1,347	109,626	29.92	30.28	.36
12	15,085	558,403	702	557,701	27.01	27.04	.03
14	22,141	653,319	23,927	629,392	33.88	35.18	1.30
19	1,228	77,815	13,958	63,860	15.78	19.23	3.45
20	7,509	208,265	12,478	195,787	36.05	38.35	2.30
21	31	25,873	-	-	1.18	-	-
22	1,478	85,838	38,150	47,738	17.20	30.95	13.75
23	302	58,593	882	57,711	5.14	5.22	.08
24	1,205	45,306	16,793	28,513	26.56	42.20	15.74
27	1,324	59,266	14,258	45,008	22.33	29.41	7.08
29	17,292	170,053	-	-	101.68	-	-
30	388	52,951	8,173	44,778	7.33	8.67	1.34
33	620	20,390	10,033	10,357	30.41	59.86	29.45
36	3,405	114,417	40,559	73,858	29.76	46.10	16.34
38	2,219	51,781	2,201	49,580	42.86	44.76	1.90
40	673	98,684	4,811	93,873	6.81	7.16	.35
47	3,901	76,883	3,138	73,745	50.74	52.90	2.16
Dist. total:	119,964	3,603,788	280,570 c/	3,523,218	31.28	33.77	2.49
Co.	93,948	5,023,873	375,628 d/	4,648,245	18.70	20.21	1.51

a/ Cents omitted.
b/ 1935 Assessment.
c/ Valuation of lands purchased in districts having no debt omitted.
d/ Valuation of all land purchased.

Table XXVI. Relation of debt attributable to lands purchased to distributive shares of delinquent taxes to be paid as a result of purchase, and outstanding on January 1, 1936

Districts a/	Debt attributable to Land purchased	Shares of Delinquent b/ taxes against land purchased c/	Ratio delinquent taxes to debt	Debt Balance attributable to lands purchased
#2	$ 979.29	$ 1,079.92	1.10	-
3	10.88	73.38	6.74	-
4	404.52	306.65	.76	97.87
5	579.59	1,108.20	1.91	-
6	20.20	90.36	4.47	-
7	2.13	66.05	31.01	-
9	79.28	60.40	.76	18.88
10	1.94	160.93	82.95	-
11	40.30	103.03	2.56	-
12	18.96	286.91	15.13	-
14	810.65	2,186.86	2.70	-
19	220.26	252.13	1.14	-
20	449.83	290.97	.65	158.86
22	656.18	892.46	1.34	-
23	4.53	18.01	3.98	-
24	446.02	363.98	.82	82.04
27	318.38	262.47	.82	55.91
30	59.91	62.53	1.04	-
33	305.10	549.96	1.80	-
36	1,207.03	787.80	.65	419.23
38	94.33	205.25	2.18	-
40	32.76	61.51	1.88	-
47	159.22	159.76	1.00	-
Dis. totals	6,901.29	9,419.52	1.36	832.79
Phillips Co.	7,024.24	18,912.71	2.69	-

a/ Districts having no debt, or in which no land is subject to purchase, are omitted.

b/ Distributive shares to School Districts include district taxes and shares of the General School Fund apportioned on the basis of the 1935 school census.

c/ Figures shown represent subjects of back taxes still outstanding on January 1, 1936. For explanation see note on methodology, page -- in text, and Table XXVI --.

Table XXVII. Estimated amounts to be Received by Certain School Districts from Taxes Still Delinquent on Lands Purchased, as of January 1, 1936.

Districts	Delinquent district taxes against land purchased a/	District shares of delinquent general school fund taxes b/	Total shares of delinquent taxes against lands purchased
#2	$ 810.91	$ 269.01	$ 1,079.92
3	42.16	31.22	73.38
4	244.20	62.45	306.65
5	991.71	116.49	1,108.20
6	53.13	37.23	90.36
7	0	66.05	66.05
9	31.58	28.82	60.40
10	0	160.93	160.93
11	27.37	75.66	103.03
12	4.09	282.22	286.91
14	1,246.52	940.34	2,186.86
19	218.50	33.63	252.13
20	250.14	40.83	290.97
22	823.61	58.85	882.46
23	0	18.01	18.01
24	343.56	20.42	363.98
27	252.86	9.61	262.47
30	55.32	7.21	62.53
33	541.55	8.41	549.96
36	752.97	34.83	787.80
38	142.80	62.45	205.25
40	24.28	37.23	61.51
47	115.33	44.43	159.76
Dis. totals	6,973.19	2,446.33	9,419.52
Phillips Co.	18,912.71	-	-

a/ See footnote, page in text.
b/ Prorated on basis of 1935 school census.

Table XXVIII. Schools Which Might Be Closed With Minimum of Reorganization, without Resettling Present Resident Families

Dists.	Name of School	Children Enrolled 1935-36	Number of Families	Estimated Cost 1934-1935 a/	Estimated Possible Savings b/
24	North First Creek	5	2	761.37	600.00
16	Hillside	8	4	770.50	600.50
18	Gunhus	6	3	688.70)	1,758.27
28	Busy Bee	9	6	879.27)	
23	Beaver Creek	4	3	540.00	166.09
38	North Harb	6	4	760.25)	1,407.75
	South Harb	6	4	769.25)	
11	Tollefson	3	3	810.44	713.81
	Total- 8 Schools	47	29	5,938.78	5,141.42

Pupils now attending North First Creek School, District 24, would have maximum distance of four (4) miles to South First Creek School, or Regina School in District 5.

District 16 - One of the two schools might be closed and the other moved to a more central location.

District 18 and 28. One school centrally located could serve the families now served by the Busy Bee Gunhus and Pioneer Schools.

District 23. Pupils now attending Beaver Creek School could be served by Pleasant View, if it were moved East about two (2) miles.

District 38. The Harb Community could be served by one school, centrally located.

District 11. The pupils now attending the Tollefson School could attend the Flat Rock School, District 46.

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a/ Total district costs prorated to individual schools on basis of teacher salaries and enrollment. See Table XVIII.

b/ Where enrollment will be more than eight pupils, the future cost of the school to be maintained has been set at $600.00 and the difference between that figure and present cost of schools to be combined considered as savings.

Table XXIX. Taxable Valuation per Class Room Unit in 1935, and 5-Year Average Tax Rate in Mills, 1931-35.

School Districts a/	Class-rooms maintained 1934-1935	Total Taxable Valuation 1935	Valuation per Classroom Unit	Five-year average rate 1931-1935
46	3	51,643	17,22[illegible]	17.[illegible]
38	3	51,781	17,260	21.5
28	1	17,317	17,317	12.2
18	3	56,532	18,844	13.[illegible]
33	1	20,3[illegible]0	20,3[illegible]0	25.4
16	2	42,325	21,162	12.2
26	2	44,266	22,133	11.7
24	2	45,306	22,653	18.2
8	1	23,792	23,792	12.[illegible]
21	1	25,873	25,[illegible]73	12.5
13	3	77,763	25,921	12.2
11	4	110,973	27,7[illegible]3	1[illegible].4
23	2	5[illegible],593	20,206	18.[illegible]
27	2	59,266	29,633	15.[illegible]
41	1	30,411	30,411	11.[illegible]
44	2	67,026	33,513	11.4
37	1	34,465	34,465	11.7
47	2	76,[illegible]83	38,[illegible]42	1[illegible].6 b/
9	2	76,461	38,230	1[illegible].[illegible]
35	1	41,9[illegible]9	41,[illegible]99	[illegible].0
22	2	[illegible]5,[illegible]4	42,9[illegible]2	13.3
45	1	43,213	43,213	7.7
4	4	17[illegible],211	44,5[illegible]3	15.3
10	4	189,959	47,[illegible]90	18.[illegible]
5	7	353,575	50,511	15.1
30	1	52,951	5[illegible],951	[illegible].[illegible]
3	2	10[illegible],592	5[illegible],296	11.7
14	12	653,[illegible]10	5[illegible],[illegible]13	2[illegible].[illegible] b/
36	2	11[illegible],[illegible]17	57,208	15.1
15	1	57,596	57,5[illegible]6	[illegible].3
25	1	5[illegible],[illegible]07	5[illegible],[illegible]07	[illegible].2
7	1	5[illegible],952	5[illegible],952	[illegible].1
42	1	6[illegible],[illegible]06	62,[illegible]06	[illegible].[illegible]
2	7	[illegible]11,909	6[illegible],130	32.0 b/
32	1	7[illegible],5[illegible]2	71,5[illegible]2	17.[illegible]
1	1	7[illegible],2[illegible]6	7[illegible],2[illegible]6	7.[illegible]
19	1	77,[illegible]10	77,[illegible]10	9.5
17	2	161,700	[illegible]0,850	[illegible].3
12	6	5[illegible],[illegible]03	[illegible]3,[illegible]67	18.2 b/
40	1	[illegible]2,634	[illegible]2,[illegible]34	[illegible].4
20	2	20[illegible],265	101,132	15.5 b/
6	1	121,102	121,102	7.[illegible]
29	1	170,[illegible]53	170,[illegible]53	[illegible].7 b/

a/ Ranked according to taxable valuation per class room unit.
b/ Districts including towns or cities.

Table XXX. Phillips County, Montana Classification of Lands Purchased and Estimated Lease Returns at Three Rates, Together with 9-year Average Annual Tax Returns.

School District #	Total Acres purchased a/	Land Classification and Forage Acre Factors b/ .45 1F & 2F acres	.31 3F & 4F acres	c/ .45 1-G acres	.31 2-G acres	.23 3-G acres	.13 4G & 5G acres
1	3,861	2,361	-	-	589	640	271
2	12,100	-	10,100	-	1,160	-	1,840
3	991	-	320	-	120	551	-
4	10,675	-	8,033	-	841	361	1,440
5	34,920	-	17,966	-	2,125	800	14,029
6	9,795	-	4,638	-	940	960	3,257
7	255	-	-	-	-	-	255
8	3,027	-	640	-	-	-	2,387
9	8,195	-	2,635	-	720	-	4,840
10	514	-	514	-	-	-	-
11	1,176	-	761	-	-	-	415
12	640	-	-	-	-	-	640
13	2,716	-	-	-	-	-	2,716
14	19,432	-	5,909	-	3,418	1,600	8,505
15	80	-	-	-	80	-	-
16	880	-	720	-	160	-	-
18	5,789	-	1,760	-	-	-	4,029
19	10,496	2,240	2,805	-	5,451	-	-
20	9,732	2,222	4,429	-	3,081	-	-
22	28,851	18,575	1,335	-	8,941	-	-
23	640	-	640	-	-	-	-
24	18,573	-	7,519	-	300	-	10,754
25	13,368	10,818	1,030	-	1,520	-	-
26	2,071	-	1,471	-	-	-	600
27	14,976	-	6,125	-	3,588	-	5,263
28	320	-	320	-	-	-	-
30	6,578	1,912	2,552	-	-	1,874	240
33	11,080	-	6,232	-	3,186	-	1,662
35	3,546	680	799	-	-	-	2,067
36	30,345	19,172	3,258	-	7,915	-	-
37	3,472	320	672	-	2,080	80	320
38	2,106	-	1,466	-	-	-	640
40	4,543	1,099	1,080	-	1,590	160	614
41	6,539	-	-	-	-	-	6,539
42	3,122	320	1,441	-	1,361	-	-
44	13,346	1,600	5,937	-	3,813	978	1,018
45	9,213	5,955	3,258	-	-	-	-
46	3,272	1,600	960	-	552	-	160
47	2,651	1,131	160	-	1,360	-	-
Surface Acres	314,886	70,005	107,485	-	54,891	8,004	74,501
Forage Acres		31,502.2	33,320.4	-	17,016.2	1,840.9	9,685

a/ Includes 13265 acres which were not on the tax rolls at time of purchase.

b/ F= Farming
G= Grazing

c/ Forage acre factor is decimal expression of portion of forage acre represented by one surface acre of land of the given class (See definition of forage acre in text.)

Table XXX. (Cont't)

Total Forage Acres	Gross Lease Returns at: (Per forage acre) 30¢	20¢	12.5¢	9 yr. average tax collection (Paid as due & (Normal Redemption
1,427.5	513.90	285.50	178.44	144.20
3,729.8	1,342.73	745.96	466.23	1,319.62
263.1	94.72	52.62	32.89	95.50
3,021.2	1,087.63	604.24	377.65	1,104.34
8,236.0	2,964.96	1,647.20	1,029.50	2,767.48
2,373.4	854.42	474.68	296.67	809.67
33.2	11.95	6.64	4.15	-
508.7	183.13	101.74	63.59	81.46
1,669.3	600.95	333.86	208.66	822.49
159.3	57.35	31.86	19.91	60.88
289.9	104.36	57.98	36.24	105.24
83.2	29.95	16.64	10.40	42.31
353.1	127.12	70.62	44.14	132.79
4,365.0	1,571.40	873.00	545.63	2,273.60
24.8	8.97	4.96	3.10	46.15
272.8	98.21	54.56	34.10	104.55
1,069.4	384.98	213.86	133.67	384.71
3,567.4	1,284.26	713.48	445.93	782.50
3,328.0	1,198.08	665.60	416.00	646.55
11,544.3	4,155.95	2,308.80	1,443.04	1,879.55
199.4	71.42	39.88	24.80	73.52
3,621.9	1,375.26	764.38	477.74	905.86
5,857.0	2,108.52	1,171.40	732.13	1,100.71
534.0	192.24	106.80	66.75	151.20
3,695.2	1,330.27	739.04	461.90	1,049.71
99.2	35.71	19.84	12.40	28.64
2,113.7	760.93	422.74	264.21	351.54
3,135.6	1,128.82	627.12	391.95	746.36
822.4	296.06	164.48	102.80	248.96
12,091.0	4,352.76	2,418.20	1,511.37	2,102.55
1,057.1	380.56	211.42	132.14	296.25
537.7	193.57	107.54	67.21	104.04
1,441.3	518.87	288.26	180.16	312.10
850.1	306.04	170.02	106.26	205.19
1,012.6	364.54	202.52	126.57	212.12
4,099.8	1,475.93	819.96	512.47	975.19
3,689.7	1,328.29	737.94	461.21	1,077.15
1,209.5	435.42	241.90	151.19	275.63
980.1	352.84	196.02	122.51	193.20
93,364.7	33,611.29	18,672.94	11,670.59	21,550.31
Average returns per surface acre	.11	.06	.04	.08